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Free to Deployed Areas



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Breshna Mosazai, a law student at the American University in Kabul, was wounded in an attack at the school Aug. 24 and played dead while gunmen stalked around her.

University attack put young Afghan woman's dreams, future on hold

BY LYNNE O'DONNELL
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Breshna Mosazai remembers the day of the deadly attack two months ago on the American University in Kabul. She remembers lying still on the corridor floor and playing dead, pushing the agony of the gunshot wounds out of her mind as heavily armed gunmen stalked around the campus, looking for people to kill.

That day changed her life forever and forced the 26-year-old Afghan law student to put her dreams and career on hold.

The Aug. 24 rampage went on for what seemed like an eternity as the attackers shot at students with automatic rifles and fired rocket-propelled grenades into classrooms. By the time it was over, 13 people were killed and more than 40 were wounded. No group has since claimed responsibility for the attack, fueling speculation that Afghanistan's emerging Islamic State affiliate was behind it.

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 5



DANGEROUS ENTANGLEMENT

Strikes put US at risk of falling into Yemen civil war

BY MATTHEW LEE
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The direct U.S. entry into Yemen's civil war, for now a limited response to rebel missile fire on a U.S. Navy

ship, risks a wider entanglement that could leave the next American president embroiled in a yet another unwanted Middle East war with broad implications for the region and beyond.

Obama administration officials from the White House, the Pentagon and the State De-

Members of the Higher Council for Civilian Community Organization inspect a destroyed funeral hall Thursday after a deadly Saudi-led airstrike in Sanaa, Yemen.

HANI MOHAMMED/AP

partment all argued that Thursday's cruise missile strikes on radar sites controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels were strictly a self-defense measure and not an escalation in military involvement.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This conduct is a disgrace to the U.S. Navy and an affront to U.S. taxpayers who were left to foot the bill for parties and prostitutes."

—U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy, discussing the case against Lt. Cmdr. Gentry DeBord, who pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit bribery
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MILITARY

Senior officials review possible medal upgrades

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's search to make sure that modern war heroes are appropriately recognized has reached a new phase, with senior service officials meeting to review the cases of hundreds of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

The process, directed by Defense Secretary Ash Carter, started early this year and could lead to numerous cases in which heroes of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are retroactively awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for combat valor, or service cross medals that are considered one step lower. The effort follows a review called for by then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in 2014 after years of criticism that acts of bravery after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were not getting the attention they were due.

Doug Sterner, a Vietnam War veteran and historian who has testified before Congress on valor award issues, said the review is exciting and unprecedented in U.S. military history. The Army carried out a review beginning in the late 1980s to determine if there were racial barriers to black soldiers receiving the Medal of Honor in World War I and black and Japanese soldiers in World War II, but the entire Defense Department has not done a comprehensive review like this, he said.

The Navy and the Marine Corps became the latest of the services to review past valor cases by convening an 11-member joint board Oct. 12 at Quantico, Va. It is led by a Marine general and includes three Marine colonels, three senior Navy officers, and two enlisted servicemembers from each service, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. The board is expected to re-

view dozens of cases in which the Navy Cross and Silver Star — the nation's second- and third-highest awards recognizing combat valor — were awarded for potential upgrade.

The services are reviewing their awards together because they are both part of the Navy Department. The board must be ethnically diverse, filled entirely with members who have combat experience, and include at least one member who has served in Naval Special Warfare Command, a Navy Department memo said.

The other services have launched similar efforts. The Army, the largest service, established a three-phase process in which acts of heroism that could receive higher recognition are forwarded to boards with progressively higher-ranking soldiers reviewing the cases, said Wayne Hall, an Army spokesman.

The first meeting in the second phase will begin in November, and includes a three-star general, a two-star general and a command sergeant major reviewing all recommendations they received from the lower board. In the first phase, 412 of the Army's 785 Silver Stars and Distinguished Service Cross cases have been reviewed so far, and eight service crosses and 50 Silver Stars have been recommended for a review by the higher board, Hall said.

The Air Force reviewed all of its cases in May. Air Force staff officers are now reviewing the board's findings, with recommendations eventually going to Gen. David L. Goldfein, the service's top officer, and Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, said Ann Stefanek, a service spokeswoman.

The process of reviewing valor awards is typically secretive, with little acknowledgement for what a servicemember may receive until



JOE GRONELSKI/Stars and Stripes

President Barack Obama awards Army Capt. Florent Groberg the Medal of Honor at the White House in 2015.

a decision is reached. The Medal of Honor requires a positive recommendation from the service involved and the defense secretary, and approval from the president. Service crosses require approval by the service secretary.

Navy officials said in a statement, "In accordance with the Secretary of Defense's directive, the Department of the Navy's review is in progress." The Marine Corps acknowledged a board has been convened this month.

The cases of several service members who were denied the Medal of Honor have proven controversial. In one of the best known, Army Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe received a Silver Star for repeatedly scrambling Oct. 17, 2005, into a burning Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Samarra, Iraq, to pull fellow soldiers to safety. He suffered devastating burns and died a few weeks later. Cashe's battalion commander at the time, now-Brig. Gen. Gary M. Brito, later said he did not realize the extent of the danger Cashe was in when he nominated him for the Silver Star, and has pressed to have the award upgraded.

In another case, Marine Lance Cpl. Brady Gustafson was award-

ed the Navy Cross after manning the gun turret of a Humvee in Shewan, Afghanistan, after it was hit in a July 21, 2008, ambush with a rocket-propelled grenade that caused catastrophic damage to his right leg. Gustafson continued to return fire at enemy fighters, even as a Navy corpsman cranked a tourniquet on his leg inside the vehicle. His battalion commander, now-Marine Col. Richard Hall, later said that he regretted not putting him up for the Medal of Honor.

More recently, Army Sgt. 1st Class Earl Plumlee was nominated by his commanding officer for the Medal of Honor for heroism in eastern Afghanistan on Aug. 28, 2013, and received a positive recommendation for the award from numerous generals, including Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, then the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan. The award was denied, and Plumlee ultimately received the Silver Star, eventually prompting a Defense Department inspector general investigation. It found that despite approvals from numerous battlefield commanders, the Senior Army Decorations Board decided the lower award was more appropriate.

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MILITARY

Navy officer guilty in growing bribery case

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy lieutenant commander on Thursday admitted to providing inside information to a Malaysian defense contractor nicknamed “Fat Leonard” whose ship-supply company overbilled the maritime branch by at least \$35 million in a mushrooming case involving nearly a dozen Navy officers so far, many of whom were turned off with prostitutes.

Supply and logistic officer Lt. Cmdr. Gentry Debord pleaded guilty to a federal charge of conspiracy to commit bribery Thursday in federal court in San Diego.

His attorney Robert Schlein said his cli-

ent has accepted responsibility for his actions and Schlein found him to be a “very open, honest and professional guy” in the seven months they worked together. He added that most of the offenses were committed when Debord was a junior officer.

“It’s a complex set of facts in this case,” Schlein said. “It involves a variety of people and he would be someone on the lesser end of that involvement.”

Prosecutors said Debord regularly requested that Glenn Defense Marine Asia executives arrange prostitutes for him during port visits in Asia in exchange for helping the company.

GDMA officials described Debord in emails as “sex crazed” and said he swal-

lowed the bribes, “hook, line and sinker,” according to instant messages quoted in the plea agreement.

“This conduct is a disgrace to the U.S. Navy and an affront to U.S. taxpayers who were left to foot the bill for parties and prostitutes,” said U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy.

The company’s CEO, Leonard Francis, is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to bribing Navy officials with more than \$500,000 in cash, prostitutes, luxury hotel stays and a staggering amount of other gifts in exchange for classified information.

Among the 16 defendants are 11 current or former U.S. Navy officials.

From November 2007 to January 2013,

Debord provided Francis and others with inside Navy information and directed Francis and GDMA to inflate invoices to cover the bribes he was receiving. He also pushed the Navy to buy items from GDMA, including in 2008, when he convinced the Navy to not use the food and provisions it owned.

The judge agreed to allow Debord to live with his family in Ohio until his sentencing hearing, which is set for January.

A former agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, John Bellevue II, is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday. Prosecutors say he alerted Francis to the investigation.



CHELSEY K. COURTNEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Bird feeder

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Austin J. Otto, an MV-22 Osprey crew chief, fuels an Osprey before an aerial gunnery and low-altitude-tactics training run last month in southern Jordan. Otto and members of his squadron were taking part in a collective training event.

New \$440M Navy vessel arriving in Detroit

Associated Press

MARINETTE, Wis. — The city of Detroit will soon welcome a new \$440 million naval vessel that will be commissioned during a ceremony after a week of festivities and tours.

The USS Detroit is scheduled to arrive in its namesake city by Friday and to be commissioned Oct. 22, The Detroit News reported.

The Freedom-class ship is part of a new breed of naval vessels and is designed to work in shallow waters and to operate with speed and agility. It's created to be modified quickly to take on

different missions.

The idea for the vessel first came about after the 9/11 attacks, when the Navy held a design competition for an innovative kind of focused-mission ship.

Ben Caputo, chief naval architect with Gibbs & Cox Inc., the firm that designed the ship, said previous Navy ships have carried the Detroit name but that none has moved like the new vessel.

“This is a very unique vessel in terms of its combination of speed, flexibility and maneuverability,” he said.

However, critics believe the vessel might not be what the Navy

needs at the moment due to the changing environment; there's concern for its “survivability” in combat.

The makeup and design rely on avoiding fire more than sustaining it. The weaponry includes a 57 mm deck gun, a missile system and preventives that will help deflect attack.

“The Navy’s execution of the program has been a matter of congressional oversight attention for several years,” said Ronald O'Rourke, an independent specialist in Naval affairs, in a combat ship report.

3 bunkers of unstable compound to be burned at Camp Minden, La.

By JANET McCONAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Officials plan to dispose of nearly 100 tons of an unstable chemical compound currently stored at Camp Minden by burning it inside the same bunkers where it's stored, Louisiana Environmental Quality Secretary Chuck Brown said Thursday.

That appears to be the best available option for dealing with the three bunkers at the National Guard facility holding “clean-burning igniter,” a compound also called nitrocellulose, said Brian Salvatore, chairman of the chemistry and physics department at Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

“It’s very unfortunate that the material proved to be so unstable,” said Salvatore, who also is a member of a Camp Minden citi-

zens advisory committee. “But this is only 2 percent of everything that had been out there.”

Its instability was powerfully demonstrated when a bunker full of igniter exploded on Sept. 29 at the camp, where a contractor abandoned about 160 tons of igniter and 7,800 tons of M6 artillery propellant when it went bankrupt in 2013.

Plans to deal with the remaining compound call for remote ignition after the bunker doors are opened to give the fire a way out, Brown said.

“It’s become too unstable to even send any personnel nearby. They want to open the front door using a robot,” Brown said. Weather permitting, Brown said, the three ignition dates would be Monday, Oct. 22, and Oct. 29, with the burns scheduled in the morning, while the wind is calm.

Milley, other soldiers help in deadly DC bus crash

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. Army officer and several of his staff and aides were among the first to go to the aid of motorists in a bus crash in southeast Washington on Wednesday night that left one person dead and three others injured.

Gen. Mark Milley, the chief of staff of the Army, was traveling from Joint Base Andrews to Fort Myer in Virginia in a two-car convoy and came upon the accident.

Police said a Metrobus and a car collided on Suitland Parkway near Stanton Road.

According to Army Lt. Col. Rob Shaw, two soldiers helped pull one person from the car before it caught fire, and two others provided first aid to that person until the ambulance arrived.

According to a person familiar

with the incident, Milley helped direct the response and assisted with the first aid. The soldiers were unable to pull the other victim from the car because it was in flames, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly about the incident.

District Fire and EMS officials said a person inside the car was pronounced dead at the scene. Another passenger in the car was taken to the hospital with what authorities said were critical, life-threatening injuries.

Shaw said the soldiers involved in assisting the crash victim want to remain anonymous and “were simply doing what they believed was the right thing to do — using their military training to help others.”

MILITARY

Aegis defense system proves to be effective

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In about 90 seconds Wednesday, the Navy's Aegis Combat System proved its value and saved the USS Mason from a missile strike.

During the attack, the ship's defense system detected, tracked and intercepted the incoming cruise missile and destroyed it, two Pentagon officials told Stars and Stripes on the condition of anonymity.

"We actually saw an explosion," one official said, relaying what has been reported to the Pentagon from the Mason.

The incident took place at about 6 p.m. local time Wednesday off the coast of Yemen, where the Mason and the USS San Antonio, an amphibious transport dock ship, were cruising the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a narrow waterway that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Since March 2015, Yemen has been controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who are fighting a Saudi-led coalition getting logistical assistance from the United States. Subsequently, the strait had seen several strikes during the last two weeks.

On Oct. 1, a HSV-2 Swift, a catamaran-like fast-moving littoral ship owned by the United States and leased by the United Arab Emirates, was badly damaged by a cruise missile fired from Yemen.

On Oct. 12, an Iranian ship killed at least 140 civilians and wounded hundreds more at a funeral in Sanaa, Yemen's Houthi-controlled capital. Saudi Arabia denied responsibility for the strike. Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said Thursday that

the United States did not assist in last Saturday's funeral strike.

On Sunday, the Mason was again cruising the strait when its defense system detected two cruise missiles fired from a Houthi-controlled coastal area of Yemen, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The Mason's AN/SPY-1D radar detected the incoming missiles launched from a site in Yemen about 30 miles from the Mason, and the Aegis system fired missiles in response. The Mason was not hit by either missile, but the Navy is not certain whether its defense system stopped the first incoming missile or if it just fell into the sea about 12 miles from the ship. The second missile fired at the Mason fell about 9 miles from the ship, one of the officials said.

On Wednesday, during the second attack on the Mason, the Aegis system detected and tracked the missile, and the ship's crew responded and destroyed it, the officials said. In general terms, as soon as radar identifies an object moving toward the ship as an inbound missile, the Aegis system provides options to the ship commander.

"You have about 90 seconds from saying, 'Yes, that's a missile' — and launching a response, one of the officials told Stripes.

The cruise missile was about 8 miles away from the Mason when it was destroyed Wednesday, the official said.

The effectiveness of Aegis on Wednesday provided a real test of the defense system, proving it can defend ships, the official said. "There's a lot more faith, a lot more confidence in the ability of Aegis," he said.

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LEAN GARTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency

A Standard Missile-2 Block IIA guided missile is launched from the USS John Paul Jones during a Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy test over the Pacific Ocean by the Aegis Weapon System-configured ship in November 2014.

Yemen target options sent to president within hours

By TARA COPP
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Within hours of a cruise missile attack Wednesday on the USS Mason, the Pentagon had sent target options to the White House leading to that night's counterstrike in Yemen, U.S. officials told Stars and Stripes.

The USS Nitze launched Tomahawk missiles against three radar sites in Houthi-controlled Yemeni territory that Pentagon officials believed played a role in launching multiple cruise missiles against the Mason, a Navy destroyer.

"[The radar sites] posed a threat to U.S. warships operating in the Red Sea. And we don't take that very lightly. So we responded. And we responded by taking out radar installations that played — were directly involved," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said Thursday.

Cruise missiles were fired at the Mason and two other U.S. ships on Sunday and Wednesday near the coast of Yemen. At the time of the attacks, the Nitze and Mason, and their accompanying ships, were traveling through the Bab el Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The attacks could have been in retaliation for the United States' support for a Saudi-led air campaign against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The Tomahawks fired from the Nitze hit three radar sites in Yemen at about 9 p.m. EST on Wednesday night. The three radar sites were located near Ras Isa, Yemen; north of Mukha, Yemen; and near Khoka, Yemen, a U.S. official said on the condition of anonymity.

The planning for the strikes had begun after the Sunday attack against the Mason, two U.S. officials said, and involved U.S. Central Command and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

The planning intensified after the second attack on the Mason, which occurred at about 11 a.m. EST on Wednesday. By about 2:30 p.m., the Joint Chiefs of Staff requested retaliation options from the Navy and Central Command.

"How soon can we get a response going?" was the general tone of the communications, one of the officials said, noting the Joint Chiefs of Staff wanted to take action in "a couple of hours."

By 7 p.m., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Joseph A. Dunford and Secretary of Defense Ash Carter approved the options and sent them to the White House for approval, the two officials said. Not all of the recommended targets were approved, one official said, noting the White House wanted to limit strikes to targets that had a direct role in threatening the Mason and other ships.

At 9 p.m., the first Tomahawks launched.

On Thursday, Cook said the United States might launch retaliatory strikes again if there are further threats to the Mason or other ships. He did not confirm whether the United States believes the missiles were actually launched by the Houthis.

"If they try it again, it's quite likely they'll get a similar response," Cook said.

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Dangerous: US-Saudi relationship might be affected

FROM FRONT PAGE

"These strikes are not connected to the broader conflict in Yemen," Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said. "We want to make crystal clear that if you threaten our forces, you threaten our ships, we will be prepared to respond, as we did in this case."

The potential consequences of more American military action — and even possibly inaction — could affect the stability of the long-standing U.S.-Saudi relationship, maritime security in an area where Iran has shown increasing interest; and last year's landmark nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. is already involved in the conflict indirectly through its support of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the rebels on behalf of the Yemen government. And the willingness to move from proxy to active combatant, even in self-defense, opens the door to a greater role.

It has happened before. Despite a deep rivalry, the Obama administration has expanded the U.S. military footprint in Iraq and Syria to confront the threat posed by the Islamic State group. In Yemen, the administration's actions have previously been confined to drone strikes against al-Qaida's affiliate there and logistical support to the Saudis. Strikes against Houthi targets are the first of their kind.

It appears the Houthis lashed out at the United States with missile fire against the USS Mason in the Red Sea in retaliation after warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition struck a funeral in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, last weekend that was attended by senior rebel figures. The devastating air-



AP

This image made from video shows a radar site after a U.S. airstrike in Hodeida, Yemen, on Thursday.

strikes killed nearly 140 people, most of them civilians.

The missile or fire from the Houthis missed the American ship, but chief of naval operations Adm. John Richardson said, "Enough was enough," and the Navy was ordered to launch five missile strikes.

State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said the sites "were specifically targeted in order to take out or in some way limit the ability for the Houthis to carry out these strikes."

Already, signs are there of broader implications of American military action.

Shortly after the missile strike, two Iranian warships began steaming toward the Gulf of Aden on Yemen's southern coast. Although ostensibly deployed as part of a regu-

lar anti-piracy patrol, the timing suggested it was aimed at sending a signal to the U.S., which has vowed to retaliate against any new provocations from the Houthis.

"We are prepared to respond if necessary to any future missile launches," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said. He called on all parties to the conflict to abide by the terms of a fragile agreement reached in April. "Our belief is the violence should subside consistent with the terms of that agreement."

Iran says it backs the Yemeni rebels but denies arming them. U.S. officials have held open the possibility that the Houthis may have captured some missiles from Yemen's army, but they have also made clear Iran is supplying them as well.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Attack: Kabul school remains shuttered

FROM FRONT PAGE

Mosazai was rescued six hours into the 10-hour siege at the sprawling campus in Kabul's western outskirts. With three bullets in her left leg and foot, she was lucky — the dead included seven students, one teacher, three police officers and two security guards, according to the Interior Ministry, as well as all of the attackers.

Now at home in a wheelchair, Mosazai leans forward over the massive pin holding her shattered left leg together, and points to her bandaged foot.

"The top of this one is gone," she says of the foot, which is missing the big toe and most of the next two toes. There's a pin in there as well, holding the foot together. Though her doctor says she must walk to strengthen the leg as it heals, she can't — her right leg is withered from polio contracted as a child and can't hold her weight.

The university — established in 2006 to offer liberal arts courses modeled on the U.S. system — has been a beacon of all that Afghanistan wanted to be after the Taliban were overthrown in 2001: a nation that offered its citizens freedom, hope and progress.

But the attack tore that dream apart. Mosazai says many of her classmates now want to leave the country and that she, too, has lost hope.

The August attack — the first such high-profile assault on the university — left unanswered many questions as to why security failed so dismally and why militants are still able to stage large-scale attacks, including in the Afghan capital.

The assault began around 7 p.m. when a car packed with explosives rammed a low wall on the campus' northwestern flank, blowing it up to make room for gunmen to storm in as night classes were getting underway and daytime students were leaving. The campus was crowded, targets were abundant; it was at least half an hour before security forces arrived.

Many of the wounded are still getting counseling to help them deal with the trauma. The university president, Mark English, resigned soon after the attack.



Breshna Mosazai, 26, a law student of the American University of Afghanistan, where she was wounded in an attack, arrives for an interview with the Associated Press at her home in Kabul.

Classes are not expected to resume before January and the students are still not allowed back on the campus.

Over the past two years, as the war intensified following the drawdown of foreign combat troops from Afghanistan, attacks on foreign targets — or those perceived as being associated with foreigners — have escalated.

Just weeks before the assault, two of the American University of Afghanistan professors, an American and an Australian, were kidnapped while being driven home from classes. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

When the August attack began, Mosazai was praying at a campus mosque close to the place of the initial explosion. She ran out shoeless, stepping over broken glass as gunfire rang out somewhere behind her.

At one point, she remembers stopping and turning to look back. "I don't know why," she said.

She saw one of the gunmen pointing his automatic weapon at her. He shot her in the left leg. When she fell to the floor, he shot her again, hitting her left foot.

"I didn't scream or move, I was too scared that he will come close to me and shoot me in the head," Mosazai said.

Later, she lay motionless as security forces battled the militants, and another bullet hit her in the left leg. "I cannot tell you how hard that was for me ... you know

they can see you and if you move, they will shoot you."

When help finally arrived, two paramilitary soldiers began waving and calling her toward them. "My clothes were soaked with my blood," she said. "I used my hands to pull myself toward the soldiers. The floor was covered in broken glass but there was no other way."

A soldier took her hand and called her "sister," then hoisted her on his back and carried her to safety.

"When he picked me up, there was unbearable pain in my leg and foot," she recounts. "The soldier told me gently that we were close to the doctor."

Outside, in an ambulance, her brother and her fiancé were waiting for her.

All these weeks later, she is still in a lot of pain, especially after the amputation of her big toe. She has nightmares in which she is being chased by the same gunman.

The image of that shooter is always in my mind, pointing his gun at me," she said.

Mosazai has just one semester left of her law degree and had been looking forward to moving on to her Masters before going into public life. She wants to help people who have no rights, like street children and beggars, she said.

But that will have to wait. "Now I just want to get better," Mosazai said.

NATO sends troops to Farah as Taliban continues to fight

The Taliban is attacking several provincial centers in Afghanistan

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — International troops have been sent to help Afghan forces battling the Taliban in western Farah city, one of five provincial capitals the militants have been attempting to capture, NATO officials said Friday. Under its train, advise and assist mandate, NATO's Resolute Support has moved "an expeditionary advising package" made up of an undisclosed number of troops to the area to "provide advice and enablers if needed," the mission said. Enablers can include air support and Special Forces troops.

Resolute Support emphasized it was not conducting combat operations in Farah.

Afghan forces have been battling the Taliban in the capital of Farah province for several days. A spokesman for the provincial governor, Mohammad Nasir Mehri, said Friday that it was still too early to tell whether the forces were in control of the situation.

"There is still fighting in some parts of the capital city," Mehri said. "We've asked the government for more resources. Some have arrived."

Farah was one of several provincial centers under attack from the insurgents.

Earlier this month, the Taliban managed to capture areas of Kunduz, the northern city they overran and briefly held last year.

On Monday, Taliban fighters entered the capital of southern Helmand province, Lashkar Gah, where they detonated a suicide bomb that killed at least 14 people, including 10 police officers.

The Taliban were quickly repelled from the city, but fighting continues on its outskirts, as it does in Kunduz.

According to The Associated Press, the recent fighting in and around Lashkar Gah — described as the worst in Helmand since the

2001 U.S. invasion that toppled the Taliban — has left hundreds of Afghan soldiers and police officers dead.

Pul-e-Khomri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, and Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province in the south also are under pressure from the militants.

"What we do believe and what we do think is that the (Afghan forces), specifically the 207 Corps [in Farah] ... they have responded pretty well to these attacks."

Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland
Spokesman for U.S. Forces Afghanistan

timistic, and he expects similar outcomes in other vulnerable provincial capitals, including Farah.

"What we do believe and what we do think is that the ANDSF, specifically the 207 Corps [in Farah] ... they have responded pretty well to these attacks," Cleveland told reporters Wednesday.

"So, we know that there is ongoing fighting, but we do believe that that 207 Corps out there has done a pretty good job of defending Farah city."

Zubair Babakarihal contributed to this report.
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US coalition increases airstrikes on Mosul

Associated Press

KHAZIR, Iraq — The U.S.-led coalition is increasing airstrikes in and around the militant-held city of Mosul as Iraqi ground forces build up ahead of a planned operation to retake the city, it said in a statement Friday.

The coalition said its planes had conducted more than 50 airstrikes against the Islamic State group in the Mosul area over the past two weeks.

"We have been intensifying our efforts in and around Mosul," said Col. John Dorrian, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition.

Iraqi ground forces are moving into place to the

south and east of Mosul. While Qayyarah air base to the south of Mosul remains the main base of operations, Iraqi army convoys, including a unit of the country's elite special forces, could be seen traveling to front-line positions to the east of the city.

"All the troop movements now are related to the Mosul operation," said Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Firas Bashar, stationed at an Iraqi army base in Makhmur.

The operation to retake Mosul is expected to be the most complex yet for Iraq's military. Iraqi and coalition forces say some 30,000 troops will be needed to retake the city that has been under Islamic State control for more than two years.

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MATTHEW AFTERMATH

VA emergency responders reach NC

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two groups of Department of Veterans Affairs personnel drove into flood-damaged North Carolina on Thursday to offer medical care and counseling to veterans affected by Hurricane Matthew, said Kevin Thompson, acting director of the VA Office of Emergency Management.

The hurricane triggered flooding that has left 38 people dead in the United States, 22 of them in North Carolina, according to The Associated Press.

"People have to evacuate and they weren't able to take their meds, or maybe they lost their medication, glasses or hearing aids in the flood damage. Then there's others on dialysis who we need to get them back to be dialyzed," Thompson said. "It's difficult to get around in North Carolina. Veterans may not be able to get to the clinics, so we're trying to take our services out closer to them."

One mobile clinic set up about noon Thursday in Laurinburg, adjacent to hard-hit Robeson County in North Carolina.

Ahead of Hurricane Matthew's landfall in the southeastern United States, VA health care systems from Florida through North Carolina closed their medical centers and smaller clinics.

The only clinic still closed Thursday was Robeson County Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Pembroke. Thompson said it was still without power or water. It's expected to reopen in the next two days.

Robeson was one of 31 counties that North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory requested be declared a federal disaster. More than 140 members of the North Carolina National Guard and 110 law enforcement officers had responded to Robeson County, and truckloads of supplies had been shipped into the county, the North State Journal newspaper reported Thursday.

The other VA mobile clinic was traveling toward Tarboro, N.C., about 3 p.m. Thursday but was having trouble reaching the town.

Local officials have been closely monitoring the Tar River, which borders Tarboro and other towns and was nearing crest stage. Some residents of nearby Princeville last evacuated that town Wednesday and took shelter in Tarboro High School, according to The Washington Post.

"The big challenge we're facing right now is road closures," Thompson said.

He estimated the VA clinic would be opened sometime Friday.

Both clinics will operate from Wal-Mart parking lots.

The mobile clinics look similar to large recreational vehicles, Thompson said, and are outfitted with two exam rooms. The clinics are each equipped with generators, potable water and access to a satellite network, which allows the health care providers to tap into veterans' medical records, Thompson said.

Besides physicians, nurses and pharmacists, the mobile clinics, counselors will be sent out through both areas in vans, he said.

"Going through something like this is very emotionally impactful," Thompson said. "There were a number of deaths in the impact area. Maybe they knew someone who lost their life, or they're injured — counseling can help them through that process."

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REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Sacks of rice are piled up Thursday after being unloaded from a U.S. military helicopter in the mountain village of Beaumont, near Jeremie, Haiti. An international relief effort for victims of Hurricane Matthew entered a more advanced stage Thursday as a second U.S. military ship arrived off Haiti's coast and U.N. convoys and non-government groups began reaching more isolated communities.

Haiti relief effort enters new phase

By BEN FOX and BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — An international relief effort for victims of Hurricane Matthew entered a more advanced stage Thursday as a second U.S. military ship arrived off Haiti's coast and U.N. convoys and non-government organizations began reaching more isolated communities.

Food, clean water and construction materials have begun pouring into the southwestern peninsula, though many people there still say they've seen little or no aid.

Those working to send everything from water purification systems to building materials said the scope of the damage from Matthew and the difficulty reaching people create logistical challenges similar to those faced after the devastating earthquake that struck the crowded capital and surrounding areas in January 2010. But while the death toll from last week's storm is in the hundreds, the Haitian government has said the earthquake killed more than 300,000.

"There's just so much to do, not to make it more than the earthquake, but it's so widespread, it's everything across the board," said Chris Bessey, the country representative for Catholic Relief Services.

The Haitian government says more

than 1.4 million people urgently need humanitarian assistance. The official death toll is 473, though local officials have reported figures suggesting it eventually will be higher, and the homes of more than 120,000 families were damaged or destroyed. Many people across the ruggedly scenic peninsula have watched passing aid trucks in growing frustration.

"I'm looking at my life and I don't know what to do. It seems like somebody is getting help but it is not us," said Watson Hypolite, 66, in the badly-hit Grande Anse district of Beaumont as trucks with the logos of the U.N. and International Organization for Migration, guarded by peacekeepers, passed him on a mountainous gravel road.

But amid the challenges, the relief effort has risen visibly in recent days. Teams from the Haitian Red Cross and the Civil Protection agency have fanned out across the peninsula and large convoys from the U.N. and the migration agency are seen more throughout the disaster zone. On Wednesday, the U.S. military made 13 helicopter flights to hard-to-reach areas with 159 metric tons of food supplies, the U.S. Agency for International Development said.

On Thursday, USAID announced more than \$12 million in additional humanitarian assistance to aid hurricane-stricken

communities. David Harden, head of humanitarian assistance for the U.S. agency, said the package of short-term relief for Haiti includes \$7 million for food and \$3 million for emergency relief supplies. USAID also will ship in 38 metric tons of chlorine to help provide clean water, a critical issue to fight a spike of cholera.

Harden said the U.S. is also looking into long-term assistance in coordination with the Haitian government and other partners but the details have yet to be determined.

"We are good neighbors and we are good partners and I would expect that we would expect to be there in the medium and long term," he said.

Harden said the Hurricane Matthew relief effort was akin to the situation faced during other major disasters such as the Nepal earthquake in April 2015 or the Philippines typhoon in November 2013, both of which also had much higher death tolls.

The amphibious assault ship USS Two Jima arrived off the coast of the widely affected city of Jeremie to serve as a mobile helicopter base and logistics hub to bring supplies and construction assistance to the southwestern peninsula. It will relieve the USS Mesa Verde, which arrived shortly after storm started hitting the peninsula Oct. 3 and 4.

NC governor: Flooded historic town to get help

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

TARBORO, N.C. — As flooding has begun to ease on North Carolina's rivers, allowing some people to return to their homes, the governor is pledging help rebuild and protect one of the country's oldest towns chartered by African-Americans.

Gov. Pat McCrory on Thursday made an aerial tour of Princeville after it was inundated by floodwaters for the second time in less than 20 years. This week's flooding was spawned by Hurricane Matthew.

Princeville also was inundated in 1999 during Hurricane Floyd.

The governor said National Guard troops have been sent to Princeville with high-water vehicles to ensure no one loots stores or steals from vacant homes.

"I want to let them know we will be with you, and we'll do everything we can to help you rebuild this city," McCrory said. "And also, steps need to be taken where this won't happen again in the future."

McCrory said the flooding may be worse than Lumberton is experiencing farther south.

The flooding triggered by heavy rain from Matthew — which killed more than 500 people in Haiti — has left at least 38 dead in the U.S.

McCrory said the number of statewide power outages continues to drop, down to about 44,000 from a peak of more than 800,000 Sunday. He reported the state's death toll climbed to 22.

But McCrory said flooding is still a major problem in poor areas in the eastern part of the state.

"It's a surreal experience to see this on a sunny day," McCrory said.

NATION

Trump says he never met some of his accusers

By STEVE PEOPLES
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump contends he doesn't know and never even met some of the women accusing him of sexual assault, and his running mate said Friday the campaign is working on producing evidence that the claims are false.

Trump, himself, has called his accusers "horrible liars" and said he will prove the allegations aren't true, but Hillary Clinton and ally Michelle Obama said Americans are learning more about Trump's unacceptable behavior every day. "We can't expose our children to this any longer, not for another minute, let alone for four years," the first lady told Clinton supporters at a rally in New Hampshire. In a passionate address Thursday, Obama said that after years of working to end "this kind of violence and abuse and disrespect ... we're hearing these exact same things on the campaign trail. We are drowning in it."

In an appearance Friday morn-

ing on Fox News, Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence blamed the news media for what he characterized as an obsession with "unsubstantiated" claims by Trump's accusers.

"There will be more evidence coming out" to prove Trump's innocence, Pence said. Asked what evidence he was talking about, Pence said, "The campaign is working on bringing that information out." He did not elaborate.

Trump was cheered at rallies Thursday in Florida and two appearances in Ohio, states central to his campaign. He is campaigning Friday in another crucial state, North Carolina.

Clinton has no rallies planned Friday, but President Barack Obama planned to campaign for her in Ohio.

The allegations against Trump dominated the campaign Thursday. Four women have told publications detailed stories about encounters with Trump that ended with groping, kissing and other unwanted sexual advances.

"These vicious claims about me, of inappropriate conduct with



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pauses as he arrives to speak Thursday at a campaign rally in Cincinnati.

women, are totally and absolutely false. And the Clintons know it," Trump said Thursday in Florida. He offered no evidence contradicting the reports except to ask why his accusers had waited years and then made their allegations less than a month before the election.

His defense appeared undermined by a video that surfaced last week in which he bragged about kissing and groping women without their permission. Similar behavior was detailed by women who accused Trump in articles published late Wednesday by The New York Times and the Palm Beach Post. Separately, a People magazine reporter offered a first-

person account accusing Trump of attacking her in 2005 while she was in Florida to interview him and his pregnant wife.

The New York billionaire denied the allegations and blamed them on Clinton's campaign and a complicit news media. He promised to sue his media critics and said he was preparing evidence that would discredit his female accusers, whom he called "horrible people. They're horrible, horrible liars." For her part, Clinton said "the disturbing stories just keep on coming."

Trump's attacks came after campaign manager Kellyanne Conway earlier in the week high-

lighted a Clinton tweet that said "every survivor of sexual assault deserves to be heard, believed, and supported." Conway hoped to encourage more women to come forward with allegations against Bill Clinton, building on the campaign's decision to bring three of the former president's accusers to the second presidential debate.

"His campaign is promising more scorched-earth attacks. Now that's up to him," Hillary Clinton said during a San Francisco fundraiser: "He can run his campaign however he chooses. And frankly, I don't care if he goes after me."

Email: Clinton campaign tried to move back Illinois primary

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's campaign tried to move the Illinois presidential primary to a later date, saying a contest held after the Super Tuesday primaries might stop momentum for a moderate Republican candidate and emphasizing that Clinton and her husband "won't forget" a political favor, emails made public on Thursday show.

A November 2014 email hacked from the accounts of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta was among nearly 2,000 new emails published by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks. The email, from future Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook to Podesta, said Obama administration officials should use their connections in the president's home state to try to push back the March 15 Illinois primary by at least a month.

"The overall goal is to move the IL pri-



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks Thursday with Ellen Degeneres, right, during a commercial break at a taping of "The Ellen Degeneres Show" in Burbank, Calif.

mary out of mid-March, where they are currently a lifeline to a moderate Republican candidate after the mostly southern Super Tuesday," Mook wrote. "IL was a key early win for (GOP presidential candidate Mitt) Romney" in 2012.

While the request would come from Obama, the president and former Illinois senator, "the key point is that this is not an Obama ask, but a Hillary ask," Mook said.

"The Clintons won't forget what their friends have done for them," he added. Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, famously gave special attention to allies considered "friends of Bill."

Some GOP officials stick with Trump, citing issues

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some key Republican officeholders and candidates are reaffirming their support for Donald Trump despite new allegations from women that he groped and assaulted them. The Republicans argue that Trump would still be better on key issues like energy and the Supreme Court than Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"Hillary Clinton will not change the Obamacare disaster, the out-of-control regulators or our terrible foreign policy," said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, who is running for re-election. "I think with a Republican Congress, that he may be able to do that."

Said West Virginia GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Cole, president of the state Senate, "You have one candidate who wants to be there for our coal and our natural gas industry, and another one that wants to destroy them."

North Carolina GOP Sen. Richard Burr, who's also fighting to retain his seat, said he accepts Trump's statements that he didn't commit sexual assault and still supports Trump politically because he's wor-

ried more about Hillary Clinton's "lack of judgment."

In the wake of last week's disclosure of the 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women, some big-name Republicans withdrew their support, including Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Rob Portman of Ohio, all of whom are up for re-election.

But at least publicly, there appeared to be no one new jumping ship on Thursday, perhaps because of the fury of GOP base voters, goaded by Trump, himself, over the original defectors. A few of the original defectors subsequently got back on board, including Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, a member of the Senate's GOP leadership.

Those GOP officials who already had distanced themselves from Trump were largely silent on the new allegations Thursday. House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who on Monday announced he would not defend Trump or campaign for him, appeared before the Waukegan County Business Alliance but refused to take questions from reporters.

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NATION



PHOTOS BY SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Barack Obama talks with Nathan Copeland during a tour of innovation projects at the White House Frontiers Conference at the University of Pittsburgh on Thursday.

Spacecraft, robotic arms and minidrones: Obama nerds out

BY JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — President Barack Obama has a confession: He's a science geek, a nerd, and he's not apologizing to anyone.

The geek-in-chief was in his element Thursday as he toured cutting-edge projects during a White House Frontiers Conference. Obama beamed as he took the chair of a Boeing Starliner Flight Simulator, with its panoply of buttons and monitors and futuristic gizmos.

"Your ride is here, baby," Obama said after docking the simulator on the International Space Station. "This is like the Uber shuttle. In case anybody calls, we'll be there in five minutes."

Minutes later, the president gawked at a self-directed quadcopter, or minidrone, used to inspect infrastructure like bridges. As a computer screen showed the drone's preset path, the drone moved up and down, left and right, emitting neon green light and whizzing loudly.

He offered a presidential fist bump to Nathan Copeland, a paralyzed man who is the first person who can feel sensation through his



Copeland demonstrates how he can control his robotic arm and feel when the robotic hand is touched by fist-bumping with Obama.

mind-controlled robotic arm.

"What a story," Obama said incredulously.

The Harvard-trained lawyer has never been shy about his fascination with all things scientific and high tech. Over the years, he's fired off a high-speed marshmallow air cannon at a White House science fair and rubbernecked at robots built by teenagers.

He used his appearance Thursday to scoff at those who "willfully ignore facts or stick their hands in the sand," such as those who question global warming.

"Sixty years ago, when the Russians beat us to space, we didn't deny that Sputnik was up there. That wouldn't have worked," Obama said. "No, we acknowledged the facts and then built a space program almost overnight, and then beat them to the moon."

Urging a new aspiration for the nation, Obama has set a goal to send humans to Mars by the 2030s, and in Pittsburgh, he got a look at the SpaceX Dragon Spacecraft, part of ongoing research to develop vehicles that could transport astronauts to the red planet.

VA providing more funding, training for Phoenix facility

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Friday that more money, training and employees would be part of an effort to correct the Phoenix VA Health Care System after an inspection found veterans continue to suffer with long waits for appointments with specialists.

The Phoenix VA was at the center of a scandal in 2014, when it was discovered that veterans died while waiting for care. Staff had manipulated wait-time data there and at other VA hospitals across the United States.

After the U.S. government poured billions of dollars into reform efforts in following years, 215 patients died while waiting for treatment at the Phoenix VA, according to a report released Oct. 4 by the VA's Office of Inspector General. One patient was unable to see a VA cardiologist, which "may have contributed" to his death, the report stated.

"The sustained and continued improvement of the Phoenix VA Health Care System is a department priority," VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson said in a news release. "There are best practices and expertise from across the nation that we are bringing to bear in order to deliver more consistent, high-quality care to veterans."

The VA announced it would allocate \$28 million to the Phoenix VA in addition to its annual budget. Most of the funds will be used to hire more employees, the release stated.

Leadership at the Phoenix VA is attempting to open two new facilities in early 2017, expanding its number of community-based clinics to nine from seven.

They're also providing more training on scheduling medical appointments. All new employees will be required to take a two-week course, while cur-

rent employees will go through a three-day course, according to the release.

The IG's office has issued a half-dozen reports in the past two years citing ongoing problems in Phoenix despite new VA policies and increased training in scheduling appointments, the new report stated.

Inspectors found the number of active patient cases in Phoenix had grown from 32,500 in March to 38,000 by July. The additional cases were caused partly by staff not scheduling patient's appointments in a timely manner, according to inspectors.

"As a result, patients attempting to get care at [the Phoenix VA] continued to encounter delays in obtaining such care," the report read. "We substantiated that one patient waited in excess of 300 days for vascular care."

Several lawmakers reacted to the findings, including Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Ill., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.; Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.; and Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., who is running against McCain in the November election.

"More than two years after the Phoenix VA Health Care System became ground zero for VA's wait-time scandal, many of its original problems remain, and this report is proof of that sad fact," Miller said in a written statement.

"It's clear veterans are still dying while waiting for care, that delays may have contributed to the recent death of at least one veteran and the work environment in Phoenix is marred by confusion and dysfunction."

Concerned Veterans for America, a conservative-leaning veterans group, said Friday that the VA was only "throwing money at the problems in Phoenix."

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Fight over thermostat might have led to officers' shootings

BY DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON — The domestic disturbance that police were responding to when two veteran officers were shot and wounded might have started as an argument over the thermostat, police said.

The officers were called late Wednesday night to an apartment in the East Boston neighborhood, where Kirk Figueroa, 33, was allegedly threatening his roommates with a knife, police Commissioner

William Evans said.

"His roommate met the officers outside and clearly said that he was being attacked over an issue going on inside that apartment," Evans said.

According to police, the roommates might have been fighting over the thermostat, but there likely were other issues.

When the two officers entered the home, they were shot by Figueroa, who was armed with a tactical shotgun and wearing body armor, police said. Figueroa

was then shot and killed by other officers.

The injured officers were identified as Richard Cinto, a 27-year veteran and father of three, and Matt Morris, a 12-year veteran who in 2006 won the Hanna Medal of Honor, the state's highest award for police bravery. Morris and his partner were honored for persuading a masked gunman firing on a crowded bus stop to surrender peacefully.

Both were listed in critical condition early Friday, but they are

recovering, officials said.

Police towed Figueroa's car from outside his home Thursday morning. The vehicle had been decorated with the name of a website called elterracino.org. On the site, a man who identifies himself as Kirk Figueroa says his company, Code Blue Protection Corp., provides police support, fugitive apprehension and extradition services and armored car training.

Figueroa, who was not licensed to have a gun in Massachusetts, described himself as a Boston

constable, a former member of a U.S. Army Reserve military police unit, a bounty hunter in California and a former corrections officer. Constables are authorized to serve subpoenas and other legal documents in civil cases.

Figueroa enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in February 2003 but received a hardship discharge five months later, Army spokesman Wayne Hall said. He never attended basic training or advanced individual training.

NATION

Confederate emblem likely to stay on state flag

BY EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — An effort to erase the Confederate battle emblem from Mississippi's flag is failing because sponsors haven't collected enough signatures to put an initiative on the 2018 ballot.

The petition drive started in response to the June 15 slayings of nine black worshippers at a church in Charleston, S.C., and was part of a movement across the South to rethink the public display of Confederate images.

It appeared certain to end Friday with insufficient signatures. South Carolina removed a Confederate battle flag from its Statehouse grounds weeks after the Charleston massacre. New Orleans leaders voted to move four Confederate monuments off public property. Vanderbilt University announced in August it will remove the word "Confederate" from the name of a campus dormitory in Nashville, Tenn.

In Mississippi, however, the sound and fury over the Confederate flag has so far signified no change in the banner's official status.

Mississippi's complicated initiative process requires tens of thousands of signatures from each of the five congressional districts that the state used in the 1990s. Most proposals fail before getting to the ballot, and that appears to be the fate of Initiative 55, "The Flag For All Mississippians Act," which proposes clearing the Confederate emblem from the flag.

The initiative's chief sponsor, Sharon Brown, of Jackson, said gathering signatures was a struggle in most places. She told The Associated Press in late September she won't get enough people to sign petitions.

"Not unless God intervenes between now and the time the deadline is," Brown said.

Saturday is the deadline for gathering signatures on Initiative 55, but petitions with verified signatures registered voters must be submitted by Friday because the secretary of state's office will be closed during the weekend, said Leah Rupp Smith, spokeswoman for the office. She said no paperwork was submitted by Thursday.

Since 1894, Mississippi had the flag with the Confederate symbol in its upper left corner.

'(The petitions won't get enough signatures) unless God intervenes between now and the time the deadline is.'

Sharon Brown

Chief sponsor of the effort to change Mississippi's flag

The state Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the flag, while widely displayed, had lacked official status since 1906, when state law books were updated, and the flag design was not included. After public hearings degenerated into shouting matches between flag supporters and opponents in 2000, legislators opted to put the design question on a statewide ballot in 2001, and voters reaffirmed it.

Critics say the Confederate battle emblem is a reminder of slavery and segregation, and has no place on the flag of a state with a 38 percent black population, the largest percentage of any state in the nation. Defenders call it a symbol of heritage.

The white man chilling in the Charleston church killings, Dylann Roof, had posed in on-

line photos holding the Confederate battle flag. The shock of the church slayings prompted South Carolina lawmakers and Republican Gov. Nikki Haley to furl it.

Seven of Mississippi's eight public universities and several cities and counties have stopped flying the state banner, most of them since Charleston. Days after the shootings, a few Mississippi politicians, including Philip Gunn, the state's first Republican House speaker since Reconstruction, called for changing the state flag.

Gunn, a leader in his local Baptist church, said faith led him to see the Confederate battle emblem as "a point of offense that needs to be removed." Sons of Confederate Veterans and others responded with yard signs and bumper stickers declaring: "Keep

the Flag. Change the Speaker." This year, some lawmakers proposed either changing the flag or punishing universities and local governments that don't fly it. Gunn said he couldn't find consensus among House members to push any of the bills into law.

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant has said any reconsideration of the issue should be done by voters.

Another proposed ballot measure, Initiative 58, seeks to protect the Confederate image on Mississippi's flag by enshrining it in the state constitution. Currently, the flag could be changed by a simple amendment of the Legislature, if the political will arises. Putting it in the constitution would require a statewide vote to change it.

Initiative 58 supporters are also having problems gathering signatures; sponsor Rafael Sanchez of the University of Thursday said he thinks the effort will fall short. Their deadline is Nov. 5.

"A lot of people don't believe that it's come down to a serious enough situation that it actually could change," Sanchez said of the flag. "A lot of people are naive to the fact that it's a very real possibility."

An 'ick' factor to political costumes?

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Last Halloween, Erin Holin and her husband coiffed their 2-year-old's blond hair, Donald Trump style, and bought him a little suit with a red tie as his costume.

"I taught him to say, 'I'm very rich!' He even squished his face to be 'angry Trump,'" she said.

This year, her husband wants to do the same and her answer is no.

"Last year it was silly," Holin said. "It was meant to be a joke and taken as tongue in cheek."

Not so much at the moment, at least for her young child, after a video surfaced of Trump boasting about groping women's genitals.

Until recently, Trump and Hillary Clinton costumes were still selling strong despite some reservations among those who once had none. What turned them around? The "grab 'em" video, for one, and general anxiety over the low-brow nature of the race.

Following Sunday's debate, another political costume entered the Halloween sweepstakes, riffing on the red-sweatered Kenneth Bone who was among a group of undecided voters invited to question the candidates during the town hall-style meet up.

After Bone became a social media sensation, the site Yandy.com, known for creating costumes based on hot-button pop-culture figures, didn't waste any time with the retout, mustachioed Bone.

Less than 48 hours after the debate, the site went into production for a "sexy" Bone costume and began taking preorders, selling out within four hours.

Yandy's "Sexy Undecided Voter" features a red crop top, white crop undershirt, black chimes-based pants and mustache, black glasses and a microphone ala the one passed around on debate night.

Yandy also has its own take on the Republican nominee with its "Donna T. Rumpshaker" look. It comes with a white collar shirt, red tie, royal blue faux blazer and white high-heeled slacks. "Making America Great" red cap and blond wig are sold separately.

So how does Yandy feel about that "ick" factor? "That is for the customers to decide," said Chad Horstman, the site's founder and chief executive.

At costume seller Fun.com, chief marketing officer Mark Bietz said searches for "Trump costume" were on the rise, while "Hillary costume" searches have been about one-third of Trump's.



A model is dressed in a Donna T. Rumpshaker costume, a spoof of GOP candidate Donald Trump.

At thrift destination Savers/Value Village stores, Trump and Clinton costumes overall were selling at twice the rate of other Halloween looks, the company said. Trump masks and wigs were leading Clinton masks and wigs ever so slightly.

In Seattle, Anita Lavine is now a doubter. Her 10-year-old son dressed as Trump for Halloween last year, and she and her husband went as Trump supporters, though they have every intention of voting for Clinton.

"Last year, it was still pretty funny," she said of her son's garb. "Would I let him do it now? Probably yes, but I sure there will be a ton of little Donald and Hillaries out there this year, but not my kiddos."

Outcry follows weight survey for Samoa fliers

BY JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaiian Airlines executives had a dilemma: Their planes were burning more fuel than projected on their regular 2,600-mile route between Honolulu and American Samoa.

Various factors for increased fuel use, like winds, were ruled out. So the carrier asked passengers on the twice weekly flights if they wouldn't mind being weighed before boarding.

The results of the six-month voluntary survey found that, on average, the passengers and their carry-on bags were 30 pounds heavier than anticipated, and it prompted a new policy: Passengers are no longer allowed to pre-select their seats on flights between Hawaii and the U.S. territory.

Instead, they are assigned seats when they check in for their flights at the Honolulu and Pago Pago airports to ensure that weight is evenly distributed around the jets' cabins.

But the new policy has prompted complaints and claims people from American Samoa are being targeted because of their weight.

"What they're saying is Samoans are obese," said Atimua Migi, who was seeing off his father, Mua Migi, at Honolulu International Airport Monday for the nearly six-hour flight to Pago Pago, American Samoa's territorial capital.

"That's an entirely incorrect assumption," responded Jon Snook, Hawaiian's COO.

Snook said he was surprised to see headlines worldwide about the issue, and that many media reports were inaccurate in say-

ing that the airline was assigning seats based on passenger weight.

Using the results of the survey, airline officials found that if adults all sat in one row of the plane, the combined weight of those passengers might exceed load limitations in crash-landing situations, Snook said.

Officials are now trying to keep one seat per row open, or at least fill those seats with children.

Snook said other carriers have and the Federal Aviation Administration establishes average weights of passengers with their carry-on luggage for carriers. The airline in an online Q&A about the seating policy said "airlines may choose to conduct their own survey in markets in which they believe weights differ materially from FAA averages."

The airline chose to manage distribution of passengers instead of limiting the number of seats could be sold, which would have driven up ticket prices, Snook added.

Daniel King, who filed one of six complaints sent to the Transportation Department between Sept. 29 and Oct. 10, called the new policy "discriminatory" because it applies to the Pago Pago flight.

But the department decided "Hawaiian Airlines' policy of not offering pre-assigned seats on certain flights is not on its face discriminatory," Transportation Dept. said. Hawaiian Airlines Cailin Harvey in an email.

Snook said Hawaiian has conducted similar weight studies for its Asian markets, where the average weight calculated ended up being lower than previously projected, and no policy change was enacted as a result.

NATION

WHO'S TO BLAME?

A study shows accidental shootings kill a child in the US every other day

By RYAN J. FOLEY,
LARRY FENN
AND NICK PENZENSTADLER
Associated Press

Hours earlier, he was a happy 4-year-old who loved Ironman and the Hulk and all the Avengers. Now, as Bryson Mees-Hernandez approached death in a Houston hospital room, his brain swelling through the bullet hole in his face, his mother assured the boy it was OK to die. "When you are on the other side," his mother, Crystal Mees, recalled telling him, "you are going to see Mommy cry a lot. It's not because she's mad. It's because she misses you."

And this: "It's not your fault." But whose fault was it? Bryson shot himself last January with a .22-caliber Derringer his grandmother kept under the bed. It was an accident, but one that could be blamed on many factors, from his grandmother's negligence to the failure of government and industry to find ways to prevent his death and so many others.

The Associated Press and the USA Today Network set out to determine just how many others there have been.

The findings: During the first six months of this year, minors died from accidental shootings at their own hands or at the hands of other children or adults — at a pace of one every other day, far more than limited federal statistics indicate.

Tragedies like the death of Bryson Mees-Hernandez play out repeatedly across the country. Curious toddlers find unsecured, loaded handguns in their homes and vehicles and fatally shoot themselves and others. Teenagers, often showing off guns to their friends and siblings, end up shooting them instead.

Using information collected by the Gun Violence Archive — a nonpartisan research group — news reports and public sources, the media outlets spent six months analyzing the circumstances of every death and injury from accidental shootings involving children ages 17 and younger from Jan. 1, 2014, to June 30 of this year — more than 1,000 incidents in all.

Among the findings:

■ Deaths and injuries spike for children under 5, with 3-year-olds the most common shooters and victims among young children.

■ Accidental shootings spike again for ages 15-17, when victims are most often fatally shot by other children but typically survive self-inflicted gunshots.

■ States in the South are among those with the highest per capita rates of accidental shootings involving minors. Another finding: The vast majority of shooters and victims are boys. A shooting last year in Shreveport, La., is a case in point.

Cameron Price, 4, and his brother, Ka'Darius, 6, were riding their bikes outside the Lexington Motel, where their family had taken a \$30-a-night room.

They decided to go inside, into a room where several adult acquaintances of their parents had been smoking marijuana. A gun was sitting out, and Ka'Darius thought the chrome-and-black, .40-caliber pistol was a toy. Cars and his grandfather's favorite cologne.

bullet fatally struck the younger boy.

Ka'Darius later told police he "pushed the bad button" and he understood his brother "had a hole in his head," was going to the hospital and not coming home.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 74 minors died from accidental discharges of firearms in 2014, the latest year for which comparable data are available. The AP and USA Today analysis counted 113 for that year, suggesting the federal government missed a third of the cases.

While accidental shootings account for only a fraction of firearm deaths in the U.S., gun safety advocates have long argued that they are largely preventable.

They demand stricter laws requiring guns to be kept locked up and unloaded. But gun rights supporters argue those measures make guns less useful in emergencies; citing CDC statistics, the National Rifle Association argues in public statements that such deaths have declined significantly in recent decades and that the chance of a child dying in a firearms accident is "one in one million."

Bob Anderson, chief of the mortality statistics branch of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, suggested the NRA was citing statistics that underestimate the risk guns represent to children. He said the undercount documented by the AP and USA Today Network is "significant and important," but not surprising.

The agency has long suspected that its statistics on accidental firearms deaths are too low, he said.

Gun safety advocates have urged a public health approach that includes more government research, more public awareness and stricter state laws.

That is just what Crystal Mees is advocating in Texas after the death of her son at her mother's house.

Mees had given birth months earlier to a baby girl and needed sleep, so she had taken Bryson and his 2-year-old sister there to spend the night.

It began as a typical night. After their baths, Bryson asked if he could hop in bed with his grandfather, who was already asleep. His grandmother, Anna Sperber, said yes, before she fell asleep on the living room couch with the younger girl.

When Sperber got up to get a blanket hours later, she saw Bryson face down on the bedroom floor. She thought he had fallen asleep.

Then she noticed the lump on his head and panicked when she saw the pistol she kept under her bed lying next to him. He had shot himself above the right eye.

Crystal Mees blames her mother for her son's death and no longer talks to her or brings her two children around; she said she had warned her to keep the gun out of children's reach. She plans to push for a "Bryson's Law" in Texas to make it easier for prosecutors to bring charges against adults who allow children access to firearms.

Both women attended the funeral, where relatives dressed up as Bryson's beloved Avengers. He was buried with Legos, with cars and his grandfather's favorite cologne.

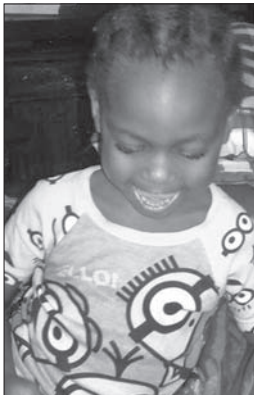
'It's not your fault.'

Crystal Mees speaking to her son, Bryson, 4, as he lay dying



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Crystal Mees poses for a portrait holding a large photo of her son, Bryson, 4, at her home in Houston on Aug. 13.



Courtesy of Rutlie Price



HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/
The Shreveport (La.) Times/AP

Cameron Price, 4, shown left, the son of Rutlie Price, above, was accidentally shot by his older brother, Ka'Darius, 6, in 2015.

WORLD

South Sudan sees signs of famine as aid blocked

By JUSTIN LYNCH
Associated Press

AWEIL, South Sudan — The mother faced an anguished decision: choosing which of her children to save.

With hunger gripping this remote region of South Sudan, Elizabeth Athiel could either get urgent medical attention for her 8-month-old daughter, Anger, or make sure her other five children could eat.

The little girl was shockingly thin, but the medical clinic was a half-day's walk away, and she would have to wait there for days until recovery. "I can't leave the others alone here," Athiel said, holding Anger in her arms.

The baby is another casualty of South Sudan's civil war — in a part of the country that hasn't even seen fighting.

Here in the government stronghold of Northern Bahr el Ghazal region, there are indications of famine. One-third of children in the region are estimated to be acutely malnourished. If resources remain limited, more children will die, said Mahimbo Mdoe, the UNICEF representative in South Sudan.

The food crisis is evidence of how the conflict has devastated South Sudan's ability to function. Since December 2013, tens of thousands have been killed. More than 1 million refugees have fled. The U.N. calls South Sudan one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Even as President Salva Kiir and his government have promised full humanitarian access to this and other areas, South Sudanese officials have restricted aid amid hostility at



JUSTIN LYNCH/AP

A young girl holds a child at a UNICEF clinic for malnourished children in Aweil, South Sudan. The World Food Program says millions are at risk if they do not get food assistance.

the international community over its attempts to calm the fighting and protect civilians.

During a visit by The Associated Press to Aweil in mid-September, aid airdrops by the World Food Program had been suspended because the government imposed what it called additional security requirements. They later resumed but were suspended again this week.

Minister of Information Michael Makuei Lueth recently told reporters that the WFP had been "intransigent" with his government.

Meanwhile, South Sudan's government spends 44 percent of its budget on military and security but just 11 percent on health, education and humanitarian affairs, according to the finance ministry.

Between 4 million and 5 million people are at risk of death if they do not receive food assistance, according to the WFP, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal has been hit hardest. Roughly 60 percent of the population faces levels of hunger described as "crisis," "emergency" or "catastrophic," according to U.N. agencies.

"I used to eat three times per day. Now I eat once," said Nyibol Dot, a mother who said the price of two liters of grain had reached 350 South Sudanese pounds, compared to 20

pounds two years ago.

Aweil's dusty streets were lined with ripe tomatoes, onions, and watermelon, but most are unaffordable. Here, food prices are 10 times higher than they were last year.

Civil war has "affected trade seriously," said Aweil Gov. Ronald Ruay Deng. But he defended government restrictions on aid delivery, calling security crucial for any humanitarian response.

At times, aid workers in South Sudan hardly know who to deal with for permission to operate. They described a dizzying web of middlemen from the government, opposition and local defense militias.

"In a country that doesn't act like a country, permission from the president just isn't sufficient," one humanitarian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Amid the hunger crisis, some South Sudanese are doing the unthinkable. They have fled by the tens of thousands into Sudan, the country they fought for years before achieving South Sudan's independence in 2011.

At least 50,000 South Sudanese have even moved to Sudan's conflict-ridden Darfur region this year, the United Nations has said.

Israel ends cooperation with UNESCO

By IAN DEITCH
AND THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel suspended cooperation with UNESCO on Friday, a day after the U.N. cultural agency adopted a draft resolution that Israel says denies the deep, historic Jewish connection to holy sites in Jerusalem.

UNESCO's draft resolution, sponsored by several Arab countries, uses only the Islamic name for a hilltop compound sacred to both Jews and Muslims, which includes the Western Wall, a remnant of the biblical temple and the holiest site where Jews can pray.

Israelis and many Jews around the world viewed it as the latest example of an ingrained anti-Israel bias at the United Nations, where Israel and its allies are far outnumbered by Arab countries and their supporters.

The draft resolution, seen by The Associated Press, diminished the links of two important holy sites in Jerusalem's Old City to Judaism. The text refers to the site known by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and by Jews as the Temple Mount only by its Muslim name. The draft resolution refers to the Muslim holy site of Al-Buraq Plaza without quotations, but puts the site's Jewish name, the Western Wall Plaza, in quotation marks.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett informed UNESCO of Israel's decision on Friday.

"Following the shameful decision by UNESCO members to deny history and ignore thousands of years of Jewish ties to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, I have notified the Israel National Commission for UNESCO to suspend all professional activities with the international organization," Bennett said.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said he was "outraged" by the resolution. "Would UNESCO vote to deny the Christian connection to the Vatican? Or the Muslim connection to Mecca? The UNESCO vote claims that there is no connection between the Jewish people and the Western Wall. In fact it is the UNESCO vote that has no connection to reality."

The spat is the latest in Israel's rocky relations with UNESCO, which it accuses of making decisions out of political considerations.

Irina Bokova, the head of UNESCO, expressed dismay with the wording of the draft resolution, stating that "different peoples worship the same places, sometimes under different names. The recognition, use of and respect for these names is paramount."

"The heritage of Jerusalem is indivisible, and each of its communities has a right to the explicit recognition of their history and its inscription with the city," Bokova said.

"To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site, and runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage list."

London Zoo says gorilla escape was 'minor'

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — London Zoo said Friday that a silverback gorilla's escape from its enclosure was a "minor incident" that posed no danger to the public — but animal rights activists are demanding an official, independent investigation.

A wildlife advocacy group said the incident, which ended without injuries to visitors or the animal, could have been tragic.

Kumbuka, a 400-pound male western lowland gorilla, escaped from his enclosure Thursday evening into what the zoo said was a "secure keepers' area."

Police descended on the zoo, and visitors were locked inside buildings until the animal was subdued by a tranquilizer dart. Officials said the public was not in danger, and the gorilla was back in his enclosure in just over an hour.

"In the zoo, we train throughout the year for a variety of different emergency procedures, often in collaboration with the emergency services," said Malcolm Fitzpatrick, the zoo's cura-



ZSL/AP

Management at the London Zoo said the escape of Kumbuka, a silverback gorilla, from his enclosure on Thursday evening was a "minor incident" that posed no danger to the public.

tor of mammals. "It's testament to that training that this incident was dealt with so quickly and remained a minor incident."

Some witnesses reported that the gorilla had been behaving aggressively and banging on the glass of his enclosure before his escape. Fitzpatrick said Kumbuka

did not break through the glass but would not say how he got out.

Fitzpatrick said Kumbuka was back with his gorilla family Friday, "doing very well" and had been given extra treats after his brief escape.

The zoo said an investigation into the escape is underway.

The Born Free Foundation, which campaigns for zoos to be phased out, said the incident was a reminder of the risks of keeping dangerous wild animals in captivity.

"This incident could have ended very differently," said the foundation's Chris Draper. "We are calling for an urgent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding this escape, and into safety procedures at London Zoo."

Several recent incidents have raised concerns about the safety and ethics of keeping large primates in zoos.

In May, a gorilla named Harambe was shot dead at the Cincinnati Zoo after he grabbed a 4-year-old boy who had fallen into a moat.

In 2007, a 400-pound gorilla escaped from an enclosure and ran amok at a Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands, biting one woman and dragging her around before he was finally subdued.

Fitzpatrick said Kumbuka and the other gorillas at London Zoo help to fulfill the zoo's mission to inspire a passion for the animal world in visitors.

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OPINION

Struggling with danger posed by N. Korea

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

When South Korean officials talk about the growing nuclear challenge from the North, they use red-alert phrases like "existential threat," "imminent danger" and "dagger at the throat." They want Americans to understand that this long-running story of brinkmanship has entered a new phase.

One senior South Korean official told me starkly: "A nuclear missile from the North can land on this office in four to five minutes. We don't have the luxury of thinking twice. ... This is no longer a dark cloud on the horizon. It's a threat at our doorstep."

A few miles away at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, where U.S. troops are headquartered, a senior U.S. military officer offered a similar warning. He noted that the base, like most of Seoul, has lived for decades under threat from North Korean artillery across the demilitarized zone, but he said the nuclear menace is different: "This is not just a throwback to the Korean War. It's an evolving threat that is becoming dangerous outside the Korean Peninsula."

These conversations illustrate why the North Korean nuclear issue may top the security worries of the next U.S. president. There's a sense here, among South Korean and American officials alike, that Kim Jong Un, the mercurial leader in Pyongyang, is racing toward the warning lights to gain a nuclear weapons and missile capability to attack his neighbors, and also the United States. The next American president will have to decide what to do about it.

"What North Korea wants is what it can't get, which is acceptance as a nuclear

weapons state," argues Christopher Hill, a former U.S. ambassador who headed the unsuccessful "Six-Party Talks" with North Korea that began in 2005. He was speaking at the "World Knowledge Forum" conference here.

The frustration voiced by American and South Korean officials is that nothing has succeeded in checking the North's relentless advance toward nuclear weapons. Diplomatic talks, U.N. economic sanctions and threats of military force have all failed. North Korea is a pitifully backward country, except in its nuclear and missile programs.

Even China seems to have limited leverage. Many analysts think Beijing could successfully pressure North Korea. But although the Chinese sent a special emissary last year to warn against a fourth nuclear test, the regime went ahead in January. Beijing then supported a U.N. Security Council resolution in March condemning North Korea and imposing sanctions, and Kim responded with a fifth nuclear test last month.

How should the U.S. work with Seoul to combat this intractable problem? Some leading South Korean officials offered useful suggestions.

Tightening sanctions is a first step. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power was just here discussing a new resolution to do that. South Korea hopes it will close the so-called "livelihood" exemption that allows North Korea to export coal to China. Coal exports totaled about \$1 billion last year and are a major source of foreign exchange to finance the nuclear program. The Chinese have so far balked at squeezing their neighbor harder.

Driving a wedge between Kim and members of his government elite is another

step South Korea proposal. President Park Geun-hye told her Cabinet this week that a recent increase in high-level defections shows the fragility of Kim's regime — and that South Korea should encourage even more defectors. Seoul's message is that if Kim keeps subordinating all other concerns to his nuclear ambition, the regime will eventually implode.

Detering the North militarily is what South Korea wants most from America. Park has agreed to installation of the U.S. THAAD missile-defense system, but that won't be ready until December 2017. South Korean officials hope the U.S. can reassure a jittery public about the reliability of its nuclear umbrella — politely termed "extended deterrence." That could mean more overflights by B-52 and B-1 bombers, more visits by top U.S. officials, and more joint defense talks like those scheduled in Washington next week.

Restarting diplomacy with Pyongyang gets little public support here, but South Korea and the U.S. have left the door open. One face-saving approach would be secret, preliminary U.S. talks with North Korea that would lead later, in concert with China, to public talks about denuclearization. But there's no sign North Korea wants such a dialogue.

What happens if all these efforts fail, and Kim deploys nuclear-tipped missiles that could hit U.S. territory? "We should have a euphemism for 'pre-emption,'" commented one former senior U.S. official at the conference here.

But whatever word is used, an unpalatable military choice may confront the next president — for the simple reason that nothing else seems to have worked.

Tax cuts don't always make inequality worse

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Why did the incomes of top earners rise so much after 1980? One reason was the boom in asset markets, which increased capital income from stocks and housing. But much of the gain was because the rich earned a lot more in salaries, bonuses and other labor income.

To cite a well-known example, chief executive officers in the late 1970s got paid a little more than 20 times what the average worker did; since the mid-1990s, it's been more like 200.

Why are top earners getting paid so much more than they used to? It could be the result of natural shifts in demand. As technology and globalization have made markets more complex and strategic decisions more important, companies may simply be much more in need of skilled executives and managers.

That demand, in turn, might drive up salaries in professions that compete for high-skilled labor, such as law, medicine and finance.

But another possibility is that the rich are making more because of government policy changes. It's widely believed that U.S. policy became much friendlier to rich people starting with the Ronald Reagan administration. And just as one would expect, developed nations in Europe and Asia haven't seen a comparable rise in rich people's incomes. That makes policy a prime suspect.

But what did Reagan and his successors do to boost rich people's incomes? The biggest policy change was to cut taxes

— a process that began after World War II, when top marginal income tax rates were extremely high.

In fact, a number of people are now claiming that Reagan's tax cuts caused the rise in top incomes. That is the conclusion of a new paper by economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Stefanie Stancavea.

At first glance, that seems like the opposite of what should have happened. If sales taxes vanished tomorrow, you would almost certainly pay less for a washing machine, not more. In the labor market, a company is the buyer of labor.

So if workers are like washing machines, you would expect income taxes to work like sales taxes — an income tax cut would cause people's take-home income to go up, but it would allow employers to reduce gross salaries.

From the end of World War II through the late 1970s, that simple, Econ 101 story looks like it fits the U.S. data. Top tax rates came down, and so did the income share of the top 1 percent. It's also broadly consistent with what happened after 1990 — tax rates rose from their low of 28 percent in the late '80s, dipped again after the George W. Bush tax cuts, and then went back to about 40 percent. At the same time, top incomes rose. The only time that top incomes rose while top tax rates were falling in the U.S. was in the 1980s.

But Piketty et al. look across a bunch of different countries, and they find a negative correlation between tax rates and salaries for the rich since 1960, meaning that when tax rates go down, the rich get paid more. Part of this is because rich people started working more, and part is because

they stopped trying as hard to avoid taxes. But a large part of the correlation remains unexplained.

Piketty et al. have a hypothesis to account for why lower taxes might cause higher prices for top-end labor. They say it's all about wage bargaining. When tax rates are high, a CEO might not expend the energy to bargain hard for an eye-popping compensation package. But lower the tax rate, and suddenly it makes sense to spend a lot more effort squeezing companies for more. This is also called the "grasping hand effect."

That's the theory, anyway. I'm unconvinced. Besides the fact that the U.S. correlation doesn't seem to fit the model, Piketty et al.'s whole story relies on effort being very costly. But how hard is it to ask for more money or stock options? I don't have data on how much of their time executives and managers spend on salary negotiations, and I'm not sure such data exists — but I doubt the change has been that dramatic.

Whenever economists invoke models based on effort, I tend to be skeptical. I think that most people are trying as hard as they can, most of the time. That includes executives pushing hard to get paid more money.

So why do lower taxes correlate with higher salaries in most countries? It's still a mystery. If economists want to sell us on the "grasping hand" effect, I think they're going to have to bring empirical evidence that demonstrates this directly.

Noah Smith is an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University and a freelance writer for finance and business publications.

OPINION

Trump answers new claims by lashing out

By GREG SARGENT
The Washington Post

At least four women have now stepped forward to claim that Donald Trump inappropriately groped or kissed them in unwanted fashion, and predictably enough, his response has been to lash out at the news media, claiming (once again) that it is deliberately trying to derail his candidacy. He is threatening to sue The New York Times for its story quoting two of the women, and his lawyers are charging the paper with recklessly providing those out to smear Trump with "a platform."

It's almost as if Donald Trump thinks you are too stupid to remember that only a few days ago, he literally tried to provide a platform for Bill Clinton's accusers, when he attempted to parade them into his family box at Sunday's debate, in hopes of creating a great confrontation before an audience of tens of millions, only to see his plot thwarted by the debate organizers.

The Times reports Thursday that two of the women who came forward did so after seeing Trump claim at the debate that he has not ever made mud on his boast, captured on tape in 2005, of being able to grope women due to his powerful position. One claimed that Trump touched her breasts and tried to put his "octopus" hands up her skirt on a plane more than three decades ago, which she described as "an assault." A second said Trump kissed her on the cheeks and then right on the mouth outside an elevator in Trump Tower, prompting her to immediately report the episode to her sister in shock.

Meanwhile, The Washington Post notes two other instances: one in which a woman alleges Trump "groped her rear end," and another involving Trump kissing her "with-out her consent." Trump is angrily denying the charges reported in The Times:

In a phone interview on Tuesday night, a highly rattled Clinton denied every one of the women's claims.

"None of this ever took place," said Mr.

Trump, who began shouting at The Times reporter who was questioning him. He said that The Times was making up the allegations to hurt him and that he would sue the news organization if it reported them.

"You are a disgusting human being," he told the reporter as she questioned him about the women's claims."

But, as The Post notes, there is plenty of evidence that these women told other people of the episodes long before the 2005 tape came to light. And of course, Trump himself admitted to such behavior in his own words, captured on that tape.

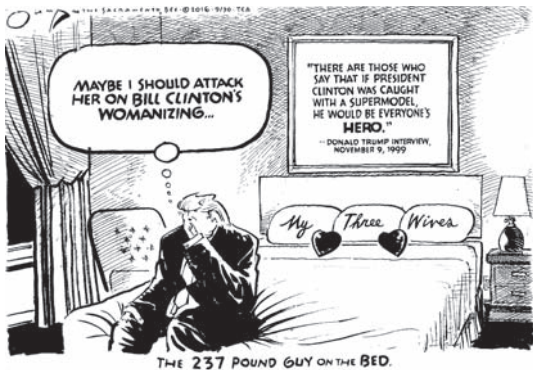
Regardless, Trump's lawyers repeated the allegation that The Times is telling these women's stories as part of an active effort to destroy his presidential candidacy. In a letter to the paper, his lawyers wrote:

"Clearly, the New York Times is willing to provide a platform to anyone wishing to smear Mr. Trump's name and reputation prior to the election irrespective of whether the alleged statements have any basis in fact."

What's remarkable about this is that Trump and his advisers explicitly sought (but failed) to place three of Bill Clinton's female accusers in the Trump family box at last Sunday's debate, in order to "intimidate Hillary Clinton and embarrass her husband," as The Post report put it. The scheme fizzled, but they were in the audience anyway.

But here's what happened with the three women whom Trump paraded before the nation: Bill Clinton settled Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit with no admission of wrongdoing or guilt; Clinton's lawyer denied Juanita Broaddrick's charge of rape and no charges were ever brought; and Clinton denied Kathleen Willey's allegation of groping, and prosecutors concluded there was insufficient evidence to persuade a jury otherwise.

We don't know for sure what happened in any of these cases involving Trump or Bill Clinton. But the point is that Trump's rage



and sense of victimization — which by all appearances are genuinely felt — are remarkable when viewed alongside his own cavalier willingness to haul all of these Clinton episodes out before the nation once again. And that's putting aside the fact that he isn't even running against Bill; he's running against Hillary.

Trump likes to claim that the things he says are "just words." That's how he has repeatedly dismissed the 2005 tape. During the GOP primaries, it was true: He could say literally anything. GOP voters were not repelled by — and perhaps were even drawn to — his steady stream of insults directed toward Mexicans and women; his appallingly cruel vow of mass deportations; his pathologically dishonest demonization of Muslims; and his various flirtations with authoritarianism and white nationalism. At the same time, no matter how hard the press went at him over these things, it only seemed to help him, draw-

ing the media attention that undoubtedly helped boost him to the nomination.

But Trump has simply never been able to accept that the general election is another matter entirely. His "words" continue to destroy him in the minds of college-educated whites and suburban women.

During the primaries, Trump talked a good game about reviving the 1990s Bill Clinton affairs. But it was widely predicted that if he did this during the general election, something would surface from Trump's own past that could prove crippling. He didn't seem concerned. After all, it's all "just words." But that's exactly what happened, and the press attention that once boosted him is now unearthing new revelations that are probably going to prove insurmountable. No wonder Trump is sinking into rage and self-pity.

Greg Sargent writes The Washington Post's Plum Line blog, a reported opinion blog with a liberal slant.

When Clinton makes a mistake, she should just say so

By ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg View

Donald Trump doesn't admit making mistakes. Even when caught in a video bragging about groping women, he barely apologizes before changing the subject. More often, he doubles down on lies.

Trump's flaws dwarf Hillary Clinton's in that and virtually every other way. But she's reluctant to admit mistakes, too.

A revealing anecdote emerged from emails released by WikiLeaks from the account of Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. It involved Clinton's defense in a 2015 television interview of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, signed by President Bill Clinton over the opposition of gay-rights advocates.

She'd contended that the bill was a defensive measure needed to stop gay-marriage opponents from passing a constitutional amendment. Gay-rights groups said she was wrong, and Sen. Bernie Sanders pressed the issue during the Democratic primary campaign. Aides wanted her to acknowledge the error, but her speechwriter, Dan Schwein, said that wasn't going to happen. "The question is whether she's going to agree to explicitly disavowing it," Schwein wrote. "And I doubt it."

He was right. Instead, Clinton changed



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton didn't declare that her Senate vote for the Iraq War was wrong until her book "Hard Choices" came out in 2014.

her position without reference to her earlier posture.

Throughout her unsuccessful 2008 primary campaign against Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, she refused to admit that

her Senate vote for the Iraq War was a mistake. In this she followed the advice of her campaign strategist, Mark Penn, who insisted she must come across as tough. It cost her against Obama, who campaigned on his opposition to the 2003 invasion.

It wasn't until her book "Hard Choices" came out in 2014 as she prepared to run for president again that she declared that her vote was wrong.

Throughout the current campaign, she has never owned up to responsibility for her advocacy of the 2011 Libyan intervention, where a lack of preparation left a vacuum filled by terrorists. President Obama has said that failing to plan for the fall of the Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi was the worst mistake of his presidency. (It's true that he said this when he wasn't planning to run for office again.)

Clinton now says she shouldn't have used a private email server while secretary of state, but she sounds grudging. I watched last Sunday's debate with some staunch Clinton supporters and even they groaned when, after reciting, "It was a mistake and I take responsibility," she launched into a lawyerly self-defense based on a claim that there was "no evidence" that the nation's security had been breached.

To be fair, it's risky for any political candidate or high officeholder to acknowledge error; confessions are bound to end

up in opposition campaign commercials or provide fodder for hostile congressional investigations.

But the public often appreciates candor. President John F. Kennedy's standing rose after he took responsibility for the botched Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 just three months after he took office. Humor can soften the blow. When Ronald Reagan was governor of California, he declared his opposition to a proposed change in the state tax system by saying his feet were "in concrete." Later, after he flipped, he declared, "The sound you hear is the concrete cracking around my feet." Obama has admitted mistakes on Libya and a few other matters.

When pressed on this issue, Clinton's side points to Trump. He makes wildly false assertions and never backs down. Even when TV cameras caught him mocking a reporter's physical disabilities, he bluffed rather than apologizing, pretending he didn't remember who the reporter was. (That was nonsense.) He said at Sunday's debate that he didn't grope women even after bragging about doing so. That's brought more of his victims into public view.

So the Clinton people are right: Trump is much worse. But heaven help us if Trump sets the new standard for presidential candor.

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg columnist.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police use Facebook in hunt for owner of meth

KS CHERRYVALE — Police in the tiny town of Cherryvale, Kan., looking to track down the owner of an abandoned gram of crystal meth have taken their case to social media.

A bag with methamphetamine was found Sept. 29 at a convenience store in the community of 2,300 people. So Cherryvale police politely posted about it on the department's Facebook page.

The post reads: "We are very concerned and would like to find the owner so please notify us and describe the packaging and we will see what we can do for you."

It's been shared nearly 1,700 times. But Police Chief Perry Lambert said no one has come forward as the owner — though he said he's hopeful.

Woman fears addict stole, ingested ashes

MA BROCKTON — A Massachusetts woman whose mother's ashes were taken from her vehicle fears an addict stole and ingested them thinking they were drugs.

Carolyn Parker told The Enterprise of Brockton the ashes were in a plastic bag inside a small white box in her glove compartment. They were taken from her unlocked Jeep on Monday.

She said the thief took only the ashes, leaving behind her expensive sunglasses, \$20 in change, and a gold chain hanging from her rearview mirror.

Her mother died in July. Parker, 48, had the ashes in her vehicle so she could spread them at her mother's favorite spots.

She said it's "mortifying" to think that someone may have ingested the ashes.

Bakery accused of racism for Oreo pastry

OR PORTLAND — A Portland bakery is being accused of racism for selling an Oreo cupcake they named "Mr. President."

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that reviews criticizing Pat Cupcake for its "Mr. President" pastry. The cupcake is described as an Oreo Cupcake baked in when cups with cookies n' cream buttercream.

Owner Anjelica Hayes says she is black, so the cupcake cannot be racist. She said they originally named the cupcake because it was so good they wanted it to hold public office. They later found out President Barack Obama's favorite cookie was the Oreo.

For now to avoid the controversy Hayes has renamed the cupcake "the Professional." She said the cupcake is still the most popular item at the store despite its name.

Lecturer apologizes for equating group to KKK

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — A lecturer at the University of Virginia has apologized after comparing the Black Lives

THE CENSUS

7,400

The number of miles an elephant seal will have swum when she returns in California. Researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz said Phyllis the sea lion has swum farther west than any other tracked elephant seal. She traveled about 3,700 miles before heading home. She's expected to arrive back in California in January.



JEFF BOBO, THE KINGSFORD (TENN.) TIMES-NEWS/AP

Rescued pup

A dog is treated after being rescued from a 30-foot well Tuesday in Surgoinsville, Tenn. A construction worker installing solar panels in a field beside an abandoned nuclear reactor called authorities after hearing the dog barking. Several agencies worked together to pull the dog, nicknamed Timmy, out.

Matter movement to the Ku Klux Klan on social media.

The Daily Progress reported that adjunct lecturer Douglas Muir apologized after responding to a Facebook post about Black Lives Matter, calling the movement the biggest racist organization since the KKK. In a statement on Oct. 11, Muir said his actions were wrong and apologized to his students and the community.

Muir agreed to take a leave from the school three days after posting the comment.

University spokesman Anthony de Bruyn said the school did not take disciplinary actions against Muir.

Baby dies when stroller crashes into shaft

NY NEW YORK — Police has died after a stroller crashed down a Brooklyn elevator shaft.

The New York Police Department said a woman was waiting with the stroller on the 23rd floor of an apartment building at around 11:40 a.m. Thursday.

The doors opened, and she stepped forward, but the elevator was not there.

The baby was pronounced dead at Coney Island Hospital.

12-year-old boy brought live ammo to school

MA WEST SPRINGFIELD — Police said a 12-year-old boy is facing criminal charges for allegedly bringing bullets to his school last month.

Chief Ron Campurciani told The Republican newspaper the boy brought three live rounds of 9 mm ammunition to the middle school on Sept. 27.

The chief said the boy also used an online messaging app to threaten a student who turned him in and said that if he had a gun, he would use it on kids who gave him a hard time.

Police said the boy got the bullets from his older brother, a legal gun owner.

Hallucinations cause hospital quarantine

OR COOS BAY — A hospital in Coos Bay has lifted a quarantine of its emergency room after a 78-year-old patient, her caregiver, two sheriff's deputies and a hospital employee all

developed hallucinations.

The Coos Bay World reported Wednesday that authorities have not pinpointed what caused the episodes, but they believe it was something spread by direct contact.

The bizarre incident began around 3 a.m. when the elderly woman's caregiver called authorities to say people were vandalizing her car.

A responding deputy found nothing. The caregiver called back at 5:30 a.m. and was taken to the hospital after deputies decided she needed medical help.

Later, the two deputies who helped the caregiver, the caregiver's patient and a hospital staffer all developed symptoms.

Video shows judge helping to restrain man

MI JACKSON — A Michigan judge who threw off his robe and helped restrain a defendant man in his courtroom said he was concerned about the safety of the man and a court officer.

The incident involving Jackson County Circuit Court Judge John McBain took place in December during a hearing about a personal protection order violation.

McBain had just ordered the man to jail, but the man resisted efforts by the officer to handcuff him.

McBain told the Jackson Citizen Patriot that the man was "totally disturbing the decorum of the court." The newspaper published video of the confrontation online.

Jackson County Chief Circuit Judge Thomas Wilson said, "A judge has the power to take whatever action is necessary to maintain order in the courtroom."

Baby girl born at World Trade Center hub

NY NEW YORK — A baby has been born at the World Trade Center's transportation hub in lower Manhattan.

Port Authority spokesman Steve Coleman said the first baby born at the transportation center's new grand hall.

She was delivered late Wednesday by Port Authority Police Officer Brian McGraw, who's a trained emergency medical technician.

In August 2015, McGraw delivered another baby girl at the World Trade Center PATH station.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



MARK EADES, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/TNS

Above: Brandon Miller is Squeaker the Clown for Knott's Scary Farm's 2016 Halloween Haunt. It takes a makeup artist about 20 minutes to apply makeup, mostly with an air brush, to his face to give him the proper sinister look. **Left:** Miller holds his breath while makeup artist Theresa Lopez paints his nose red, and then the rest of his face. When Lopez, part of a team of makeup artists, is done, Miller is transformed.

MAKING MONSTERS

Team creates fearsome creatures nightly for theme park's event

By MARK EADES
The Orange County Register

Imagine creating a monster from a normal human face — that's what makeup artist Theresa Lopez does every night for Halloween Haunt at Knott's Scary Farm in Buena Park, Calif.

Lopez, a Riverside, Calif., resident, has 20 minutes to apply makeup to each face of those humans assigned to her, making them into everything from zombies to scary clowns or even (with the help of prosthetics or masks) scary lizard creatures. The tools of her trade? An air brush, paint and glue.

"They all have different looks," Lopez said. "Some are more garish, and some are darker and bloodier."

A team of 37 makeup artists are employed by Knott's for the Haunt. Every afternoon, they arrive and get set for the onslaught of humans that all have to be transformed into something sinister for each night of Halloween Haunt.

They start their work at 4 p.m. each night of the haunt, and must have all the monsters ready to stomp through the farm by 7 p.m.

Lopez, like the other artists, usually starts by airbrushing on a base color. In this case, it's white for Brandon Miller as she changed him into Squeaker the Clown, so he can join the Carnevil Scare Zone, where he sneaks up and scares unsuspecting haunt-goers.

"I like the open canvas of a blank face, because it gives me the ability to play with it and express my creativity," she said while painting fake teeth and stitches onto Miller.

The artists might also apply makeup to an actor's legs and arms, depending on their creature's looks. Lopez grinned mischievously as she applied brown tones to Miller's arms and legs, giving his muscles an otherworldly character.

Some of the makeup work is just on the face and limbs of the actors. But

for nearly 100 of them, the work of the artist involves blending a form-fitted prosthetic onto the neck of its human wearer to make them into ghastly inhuman creatures. All told, nearly 320 people go through the makeup transformation process, while nearly another 680 simply don masks. All of them have a special wardrobe to fit the area of the haunt in which they work.

Meanwhile, once all the creatures are out scaring up a storm, Lopez and the others keep working constantly on the prosthetics and masks used during the Haunt so they look gruesome and ugly each night.

But even though she's in the business of creating hideous creatures of the night, Lopez isn't haunted by her work.

"I sleep fine," she said. "I never have any nightmares about them."

"The only nightmares I have are that I won't get them all done each night."



VIDEO GAMES

THE BEAUTIFUL, LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Players enjoy nearly unlimited freedom and locale in 'Forza Horizon 3,' the series' best game yet

"Forza Horizon 3" puts players in charge of the Horizon Festival, where they can customize everything, hire and fire friends, and explore Australia.

Microsoft Studios

By DANIEL PEREZ
Shacknews.com

Microsoft took a risk with its "Forza Horizon" series back in 2012, which brought the series' iconic driving mechanics to an open-world setting. The series originated in Colorado, then went international when the Horizon festival found itself in Southern France and Northern Italy.

"Forza Horizon 3" continues the festival's international journey within the great Outback of Australia. But this time, instead of being a participant, you're the boss of the entire Horizon festival, thus giving you even more control over what you do, who you race, and where you go. With nearly unlimited freedom and an equally nearly unlimited locale, I found this to be the greatest iteration of the "Forza" series I've ever played.

Welcome to the Outback

Things appear to be going very well for the player in the "Forza Horizon" world as they now find themselves to be the boss of the entire festival, which

has expanded to Australia in "Forza Horizon 3." From the start, the player is tasked with being in charge of festival locations, what kind of objectives can be carried out in races, and what kind abilities you want to unlock, among other things. Thankfully, the only way to improve your festival is by completing lots of races, stunts, and additional activities

which is much better than having to sit behind a desk all day signing stacks of paperwork.

Fans play a huge role in "Forza Horizon 3" as the only way you can open a new festival site or expand them is through the power of the people. I earned fans across nearly every activity in "Horizon 3" and the larger my festivals, the more activities popped up all over the map within a particular region. Let's just say that after playing "Forza Horizon 3" for nearly a week, I'm kind of a big deal in the virtual world as I'm beloved by millions of digital people.

The progression system is very gradual as you're going to sink many hours into this game in order to

earn enough fans to complete it. Just like an RPG, you'll earn fans fairly quickly in the early portions of the game, but the late-game progression gets slow as it'll take several races to earn enough to reach a milestone. These milestones kept my eye on the prize throughout my experience as it tracked the amount of fans needed to open or expand a festival, or to take part in crazy Showcase races. These races vary in what they offer, but I'll never forget their experiences as taking on a jeep being towed by a helicopter or racing against speed boats has left a lasting impression on me.

Bloody beauty

Australia features a total of six different ecotypes, and they're all gorgeous. I was able to drive from the beautiful skyscrapers of Surfers Paradise, to lush rainforests, get wet and wild across sandy beaches, and bounce around the Outback. Unfortunately, I didn't spot any wild kangaroos jumping around during my gameplay, but they did pop up in various cutscenes.

The open world of Australia is twice the size of the European environment in "Forza Horizon 2." After spending countless hours in "Forza Horizon 3," I can tell you that I have yet to experience every little inch of Australia and I'm often impressed with what I discover, like beautiful vistas, historic sites and breathtaking environments. "Forza Horizon 2" already blew me away with its environments and views, and "Forza Horizon 3" continues this tradition by wrapping a downright beautiful world around a massive game. And if you're anything like me, you're going to love its new Drone Mode, which allows you to explore the world freely with a remote drone to take in the game's beauty without having to be behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Grab your mates

Turn 10 Studios and Playground Games have made a lot of improvements to the "Forza Horizon" series in its latest iteration, but its social aspect is its biggest improvement as in addition to offering 12-player multiplayer, 1000-player clubs and seamless matchmaking, players can now take part in co-op races with their friends for up to four players. And since it's an Xbox Play Anywhere-supported title, both PC and Xbox One players can take part in all of these social game modes with PC players even being able to play without needing to be an Xbox Live Gold subscriber.

I found the social aspect of "Forza Horizon 3" to be completely seamless as I was able to join a friend in a co-op game with great ease, created and invited other racers to my Club, and take part in multiplayer matches and convoys without any issues. For those who prefer to keep to themselves, "Forza's" iconic Drivatar system is present once again, which seamlessly integrates your friends and other players' driving abilities into virtual races.

One improvement to the Drivatar system I enjoyed was now having the power to hire and fire my friends if they're not working hard enough to earn me those sweet, sweet credits. Hiring a Drivatar is as easy as completing a head-to-head race against it, although the game needs to specifically tell you a driver is available to hire, thus not allowing me to randomly hire anyone as I'm driving around. You're only able to hire four drivers, so you're going to have to make the tough decision of literally firing your friends if they don't make the cut.

Best. Of. Course. Ever. Period.

While racing games might not be for everyone, I feel "Forza Horizon 3" is good enough that anyone can pick it up and enjoy. The game adjusts its difficulty depending on your performance, allowing players to decide whether or not they should be playing against more challenging drivers, and its lineup of stunts has something for everyone. I can either hit a ramp to launch my vehicle across a ravine, or I can challenge my driving skills to hit a speed trap going as fast as possible. And with online leaderboards, there's never a moment where I'm not challenged to do better than my previous score.

After playing every game in the "Forza" series, I can say without any hesitation that this is by far, the best "Forza" game to date. The open-world driving mechanics are seamless, the amount of content is vast, and the social game modes deliver the most variety the series has ever seen. While previous iterations from the "Forza Horizon" series were used to first introduce and fine tune the open-world mechanic, "Forza Horizon 3" feels like the series grand crescendo as all of that work has lead up to the best "Forza" game I've ever played. I already was a big fan of the "Forza" series, but "Forza Horizon 3" is beyond anything I could have ever imagined for the series. I can't wait to discover more of its beautiful world.

Platforms: Windows PC, Xbox One
Online: forzamotorsport.net



Many more game reviews at stripes.com/games

MOVIES

A DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO

Ben Affleck plays savant assassin in new thriller 'The Accountant'

By JOHN ANDERSON
Newsday

An action thriller called "The Accountant" sounds like a parody cooked up by The Onion. What does the hero do? Leap tall balance sheets in a single bound? Bend the steely will of the IRS with his bare hands? No. And he also happens to be autistic. And played by Ben Affleck.

But as tongue-in-cheek as the premise sounds, "The Accountant" has a solid quotient of intrigue. Christian Wolff (Affleck) is a savant-ish forensic accountant with a genius for uncooking the books of the world's most unsavory clients — drug cartels, domestic mobsters, terrorists. He has an equally remarkable facility with guns, knives and mixed martial arts, and a flair for escaping the tightest spots. He's had a tortured past, an oppressive father (Robert C. Trevelyan) and a brother whose whereabouts will be a big part of the story.

He's also being chased by the Treasury Department: Ray King

(J.K. Simmons), head of the Crime Enforcement Division, is blackmailing an agent, Marybeth Medina (Cynthia Addai-Robinson), into tracking down Christian — who's far too cunning to have left a trail.

The original idea — sequels do seem a big part of the equation — came from producer Mark Williams, who took it to screenwriter Bill Dubuque, and they to director Gavin O'Connor, whose films include "Tumbleweeds," "Miracle," "Warrior" and most recently "Jane Got a Gun." (O'Connor also directed the pilot of "The Americans" and is involved with the new Netflix series "Seven Seconds"). He said when you make a movie about a hero with an extraordinary intellect, it naturally makes for a "higher-IQ movie."

"I think the film challenges you to pay attention and engage with it," O'Connor said. "Given the puzzle of the film, which Bill created, you really have to pay attention. You don't know where it's going once it starts. It's sort of a Rubik's cube." That puzzle — why and where is the dark money flowing — is just one of the movie's mysteries.

Christian, who is guided through his various adventures by a robotic, Siri-like voice that seems to be inhabiting his car's dashboard, is brought in to ferret out the suspicious losses discovered by junior accountant Dana Cummings (Anna Kendrick) at a prosthetics company, Living Robotics, owned by Lamar Blackburn (John Lithgow) and his sister, Rita (Jean Smart). People with pieces of the puzzle start being deducted from the ranks of the living, thanks to a sarcastic hit man (Jon Bernthal), who has Dana in his crosshairs. Christian is fairly taciturn. But when he discusses a case with that disembodied voice, he can cut to the chase:

"I have to find the person who wants to kill her," he says of Dana.

"And?"
"Shoot them in the head."

The autism angle in the film is a novel one, guaranteed to spark discussion and maybe provide a slightly misguided hero for people on the spectrum. (A 2014 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified one in 68 children — one in 42 boys, one in 189 girls — as having autism spectrum disorder.) O'Connor said he didn't have any family with autism but, like many of us, he has friends who do.

The film, he said, "was an opportunity to really climb inside the world and meet with therapists and doctors and educators

and specialists. I'd never done that before. I never read books about the subjects, or seen all the documentaries I watched and all the people I met."

They included Laurie Stephens, who runs a school called Extraordinary Minds. Stephens allowed Affleck and O'Connor to meet with about 30 men between 18 and 30, all on the spectrum, most of them high-functioning. "She afforded us an opportunity to sit down with them individually, or in a classroom environment, asking questions, creating dialogue, and that informed how to build the character."

Usually, film directing involves getting an actor to express the proper emotions. "The Accountant" would seem to require the reverse.

"It was really challenging," O'Connor said. "People on the spectrum, they feel, they just don't express the feeling. And the way we handled it was trying to find very specific and unique behaviors. As far as Ben's performance, and I'm really proud of it, when you're playing someone who's a 'genius,' you have to fight the temptation, especially if you're a good actor, to

show off. We were really conscious of not doing that."

The biggest thing he walked away with, the director said, "is that every single person on the spectrum is unique to themselves. No one is the same; everyone is different. They're as different as — they call us 'typicals' — every one is unique and individualistic as typical are." Sometimes, he said, an autistic person's negative behavior is simply a reaction to someone or something invading or interrupting the pattern of behavior that makes them comfortable.

"I met someone who always has to sit in the exact same spot in the exact same chair," he said. "There was someone else who had to

have the same parking spot — if he didn't have the same space, he couldn't park his car."

You don't have to be on the spectrum to act like that, it's suggested.

"No, I guess," O'Connor laughed, "but maybe if you act like that, maybe you are on the spectrum."

Ben Affleck in a scene from "The Accountant."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Disabilities on screen

In "The Accountant," Affleck plays an autistic accountant, a lethal combination of Muay Thai and math skills, and it makes one wonder what other movie heroes have had something other than bad guys to overcome.



"Rain Man" 1988

Director Barry Levinson's Oscar-winning classic stars Dustin Hoffman as the autistic savant Raymond who provides his fustier brother (Tom Cruise) with an emotional education.



"My Left Foot" 1989

Daniel Day-Lewis won the first of his several Oscars for playing the real-life Christy Brown, an Irish poet and painter who was stricken from birth with cerebral palsy, leaving only his left foot with which to paint.



"Zatoichi" 2003

Multitasking Japanese star Takeshi Kitano stars as the Edo-era warrior whose blindness is an asset in vanquishing ne'er-do-wells.



"Silver Linings Playbook" 2012

This satiric comedy stars Bradley Cooper as a man with bipolar disorder whose parents (Robert De Niro, Jackie Weaver) demonstrate that mental disorder is often all about the diagnosis.



"The Theory of Everything" 2014

Eddie Redmayne won an Oscar for James Marsh's film about mathematician Stephen Hawking and his battle with ALS. Hawking reportedly gave it a virtual thumbs up.

SOURCE: Newsday



HEALTH & FITNESS



THE POWER OF PLANTS?

Experts at odds over whether athletes can perform well on a vegan diet

By SAMMY CAIOLA
The Sacramento Bee

Days after sitting during the national anthem to protest police shootings of African American men, 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick was thrust into the spotlight for another controversial choice — his vegan diet. Kaepernick weighed in at around 225 pounds before he left the field to undergo procedures for his shoulder, knee and thumb earlier this year. Unable to work out for several months, he lost a significant amount of weight and muscle mass — a change that was not lost on fans. He recently announced that he has been following a vegan diet and not consuming animal products for the past 10 months.

Kaepernick told The Sacramento Bee that he feels good on the diet and that it has not hindered his ability to put on weight. Still, fans have questioned and even criticized the lifestyle change on social media, worried that without eating meat, he won't be able to put on the pounds he needs to get back in the game.

The concern is unfounded, supporters of the plant-based diet say. They cite other professional football players who eat vegan or mostly vegan, including Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers and defensive lineman David Carter, formerly of the Dallas Cowboys, who calls himself "the 300-pound vegan" on Instagram.

Matt Ruscigno, a Los Angeles dietitian with a master's in public health and co-author of a book called "No Meat Athlete," said he has been following Kaepernick's journey closely and believes that the quarterback, like anyone on a meatless diet, can get the protein required to build muscle

mass by choosing the right combination of foods. A lot of people lose weight when they first go vegan because they replace meat and butter with salads and don't necessarily know where to find calorically dense foods, Ruscigno said. But if they seek out more high-calorie, high-protein foods and eat them in greater quantities, he said, they won't have any trouble gaining it back.

"As soon as you mention plant-based and sports, everyone gets concerned about protein, but it comes from a place where people don't understand nutrition," he said. "We associate protein with animal products. But the best sources of plant-based proteins are beans, whole grains, nuts and seeds. Even vegetables have protein. It's just a matter of eating enough."

NFL player Carter once told media outlets that he consumed 10,000 calories per day in rice, beans, cashew cheese, hemp protein, fruits and veggies. Ruscigno tells his vegan clients to try rice and beans with avocado and salsa, or stir-fried vegetables in brown rice with tofu and peanut sauce.

While most people on a vegan diet don't need a protein supplement to stay healthy, Ruscigno recommends that those trying to bulk up add a protein shake made from pea, hemp or soy.

"Everyone, vegans especially, need to eat a varied diet," he said. "You can be a lazy omnivore and get plenty of protein. Colin does have to work a little bit harder to get enough protein, but that doesn't mean it isn't possible once he works it out."

However, Dr. Ed J. Hendricks, a bariatric physician at the Center for Weight Management in Sacramento and Roseville, disagrees with that advice.

"It's my opinion that vegan diets are dangerous to your health," he said. "Vegetable protein is

not of the same quality as protein found in meat and eggs and animal products. It doesn't have the same amino acid mix. While it's possible to eat enough protein to maintain your muscle mass, someone like Colin Kaepernick probably needs more protein than he's able to get on a vegan diet."

The problem, Hendricks said, is that people trying to bulk up on rice and beans will gain weight from the carbohydrates before they get enough protein to build muscles. They end up overweight and without much strength, he said.

When Sacramento bodybuilder Jonna Edwinston first started giving up animal products seven years ago, she had to work hard to find the right balance of carbs and proteins, she said. She took a break from shows for four years while she let her body adjust to veganism and found protein supplements she liked. When she started competing again in 2013, she actually had far more muscle mass than when she was eating animal products, and by 2015 she was winning competitions, she said.

"Most body builders will be on a high-protein, low-carb diet," she said. "You can't really do that on a vegan diet — most of the high-protein foods like quinoa have high carbs as well. It's important to do enough cardio to keep your protein up but keep the weight down."

Edwinston, 31, now competes in natural figure competitions with the World Natural Bodybuilding Federation and is sponsored by Vega, a vegan protein supplement company. Her diet consists of protein shakes, grains, beans, greens and nut butters.

"I had more energy, and my skin cleared up," she said of her appearance after going vegan. "It just showed that I didn't need animal products to put on the muscle mass."

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick follows a vegan diet. He lost weight initially, prompting concern about whether he could get enough protein for his physically demanding sport.

ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

LIFESTYLE



'IT WAS LIKE COMING HOME'

Age doesn't matter
in this special-needs
Boy Scout troop
based in Wash.

By
CHRISTINE
CLARRIDGE
The Seattle Times

Elizabeth and Terry Boyle, of Mercer Island, Wash., were not surprised when their son, Matthew, 15, wanted to be an Eagle Scout — like his older brother. But they knew a regular Boy Scout troop wouldn't work for their son, who has special needs.

Just like it didn't work for Bob Hier's 19-year-old son, Bill, of Maple Valley, Wash.

Nor did it work for Robert Laurensen's teenage son, Patrick. The experience with a mainstream troop left the Mercer Island father feeling like he was "banging his head on a wall."

"We'd go to an event and the other boys weren't really into waiting and taking the time," Laurensen said. "They're not set up for special needs and they didn't understand."

The three families, however, found a better fit in Boy Scout Troop 419, the state's only special-needs troop and one of fewer than a dozen in the nation. Because members don't age out of this troop, it has Scouts who range from 12 years old to 50.

Troop 419 was founded 20 years ago when scoutmaster Ted Kadet was looking for activities to do with his stepson, Colin Silvestri, now 33, who has neurological damage from a seizure disorder.

He was familiar with scouting and discovered that Boy Scouts of America had already established guidelines for special-needs troops.

So he, his wife and several other parents started the troop and met every other week at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9430 in Seattle.

"The parents are the most committed Boy Scout parents I've ever met, and the guys each have their own unique personality," said Larry Weldon, the junior vice commander of the VFW post. "They all really love being in this troop, and we're happy to help."

Campfires and s'mores

At the troop's first meeting of the year this month, members begin with a ceremonial procession of the honor guard before saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ted Kadet, center, one of the founders of Boy Scout Troop 419, sings with his stepson, Colin Silvestri, left, and Jadon Kerr. Kadet has been scoutmaster of the troop since its inception.

ELLEN M. BANNER/The Seattle Times

As the night goes on, they laugh, clown around, applaud each other and play the piano loudly without a self-conscious bone in their bodies. Or they sit quietly, next to a friend or parent, and watch, joining in as they please.

When asked what he likes about Boy Scouts, Joey Jelly, 22, of Renton, Wash., smiles and says, "Everything."

He declares the s'mores — made that night while learning how to pitch tents, start campfires and carry backpacks — to be "yummy." Patrick Laurensen, 15, demonstrates some mixed-martial arts moves while his friend, Jadon Kerr, 19, of Kent, Wash., watches with a big smile.

Working together

In the past two years, they've earned badges for shooting and archery during campsouts at Camp Pigott in Snohomish, Wash., and for birding at a wildlife refuge near Olympia. For citizenship, they wrote letters to presidents and other political figures and framed the letters they also earned badges in home repair, space exploration, art, radio, weather and more.

Silvestri worked in the kitchen during the troop's visit to Camp Pigott this year.

"I made sure the camp didn't burn down, and I got to yell 'Get the forks,' 'Get the spoons,' 'Mop the floor,'" he said.

Though the Boy Scouts of America generally recommends including people with special needs in traditional troops, Kadet believes the special-needs Scouting program should expand. He said he'd like to see 25 more similar troops in Washington state alone.

"With minor modifications, Scouting works so beautifully for this population, and the guys love it," Kadet said.

"There are no agendas, no cliques and nobody is trying to hurt you," said Matthew's father, Terry Boyle.

"For us, it was like coming home," said his wife, Elizabeth. "When you first come here, a lot of times you are not even sure what your child is capable of, but the troop gives them opportunities, put the tools in their hands and, every time, we are surprised by how capable they are and amazed at what they can do."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



True romance can be a gas sometimes

Ten years ago, when my family was stationed in Virginia, a boring weeknight in the suburbs inspired me to write my first column. At that time, I wasn't looking for a publishing opportunity. I simply needed a creative outlet to sort through the realities of marriage, parenting and military life. Now, as my husband, Francis, and I prepare to celebrate our 24th anniversary, I'll tell the story that inspired me to write...

One night after the kids had gone to bed, I settled into my spot on the sofa for some mind-numbing television.

"Isn't this a repeat?" I asked Francis, seated in the recliner. When no answer was forthcoming, I glanced over to witness an all-too-familiar scene: Deeply imbedded in the recliner's cushions, lay my husband of 14 years, sound asleep.

Normally, I would turn out the lights and tiptoe to bed — my revenge for being "abandoned" for the umpteenth time. Francis would wake up alone in the dark and trudge upstairs to find me teehee-ing under the covers. But on this particular night, I gawked at Francis as if I were seeing him for the first time. Is this the man I married?

Panic gripped my soul. We're tired, boring, predictable and — We're doomed.

I remembered one afternoon in 1992, when Francis and I were at an Italian cafe in Pittsburgh, sipping wine and falling in love.

"I really want to live abroad," he said. "Me too," I said. "I love the ocean," I said. "Me too," he said. "I don't care about money, only happiness," he said. "Me too!" I said. It was a match made in heaven.

But, if we had understood the realities of marriage, our conversation would have been different: "I'll develop stretch marks," I should've said. "That's okay, we'll dim the lights," he might've said. "I'll end up bald, but hair will sprout out of my ears and nose," he should've said. "I'm good with tweezers," I might've said. "I have no mechanical ability and won't be embarrassed if you handle all the home repairs," he should've said. "I won't mind for the first few years, but then I'll get fed up," I really wish I'd said.

But back in 1992, we weren't thinking about annoying habits and clogged drains. We were too busy planning our perfect life to be bothered with reality.

Our unrealistic expectations persisted after we were engaged. "Pardon me?" Francis yelped after accidentally belching. When he insisted he would never expel any kind of gas in front of me, it didn't take long for his steely resolve to erode. Today, expelling gas happens as soon as the urge beckons. Mid-sentence, under the covers, in the recliner. "Why do you have to burp while I'm talking to you?" I've said. "Did I burp?" he's said, sincerely oblivious.

Before marriage, I preened and pampered Francis like a primate, manicuring nails and plucking stray hairs to maintain his rugged good looks. I had no idea that, one day, those stray hairs would multiply so profusely that our grooming sessions now take place in the garage and involve the leaf-blower. The pedicures have become completely intolerable, because Francis' left piggy toe now resembles a tiny hoof. One of the kids recently asked if it was made out of wood.

I had to draw the line somewhere.

So what am I saying? Are we doomed because we haven't met our premarital expectations?

As I watched Francis dozing in his recliner, I realized something important: We have not met our original expectations, we've exceeded them. Back when we were dreaming of a life of romance uninhibited by responsibility, stress and aging, we couldn't fully comprehend the complexity and depth of marital relationships. We didn't understand that marriage is more than candlelight dinners and adventurous travel. Long-term romance is actually built on a foundation of commitment, comfort and companionship.

Realizing this, my aversion to the sight of my sleeping husband turned to adoration. And as I turned out the lights and tiptoeed upstairs to wait for Francis to wake up alone in the dark, I was happy that marriage is everything I ever dreamed of, and more.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com.
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Verizon: Breach imperils Yahoo deal

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA
and BRIAN FUNG
The Washington Post

Verizon on Thursday signaled that Yahoo's massive data breach disclosed three weeks ago was a significant event that could halt the telecom giant's \$4.8 billion purchase of the tech firm's core business.

"I think we have a reasonable basis to believe right now that the impact is material," Verizon General Counsel Craig Sililman said of the breach, speaking to a small group of reporters at a roundtable. A "material" effect in this case is one that would harm Yahoo's financial value, and make the Web giant less attractive to purchase.

This is the first time the company has publicly indicated that it's having doubts about the acquisition. The sale to Verizon comes after years of mismanagement by Yahoo executives who failed to adapt to a modern internet industry. And the deal seems poised

to close a tumultuous chapter in Yahoo's history.

Now, revelations of Verizon's internal deliberations threaten to cast an even bigger cloud over Yahoo's future.

The deal between Verizon and Yahoo is currently expected to close in the first quarter. Verizon said that the burden is on Yahoo to prove that the breach hasn't damaged its value. "We're looking to Yahoo to demonstrate to us the full impact they believe it's not," Sililman said. If Verizon concludes the breach had a material impact on Yahoo's business, then a key condition of the deal would not be met, he said. Analysts say that could trigger an escape clause in the agreement between the two companies that would allow the telecom company to back out of the deal.

Yahoo said in a statement: "We are confident in Yahoo's value, and we continue to work towards integration with Verizon."

Yahoo said it discovered the

breach, the largest recorded in history, in August. The firm said it occurred in 2014, and affected at least 500 million user accounts. The Silicon-Valley based company blamed it on "state-sponsored" hackers. And U.S. officials said privately that the FBI believes that it was the work of Russian government hackers, though no final conclusion has been reached.

Sililman said Yahoo has given Verizon "preliminary briefings" on the hack, "but we're certainly not done with the amount of information we need to receive from them... We still have a significant way to go in terms of the information we need to get before we can make our final determinations."

Verizon's investigation of the breach is currently 50 to 60 percent complete, said Verizon chief executive Lowell McAdam this week.

Yahoo's announcement last month about the hack raised eyebrows because it was in the midst

of a sale. When companies report significant breaches, they rarely say who they suspect carried it out, or even if they think the culprit was a "nation-state" or a criminal.

Some analysts note that Yahoo could argue that a hack conducted by a government is a "force majeure" or unavoidable event rather than a "material adverse effect." That could be used to prevent Verizon from abandoning the deal.

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 13, 2016

Dow Jones Industrials	-45.26
	18,098.94
Nasdaq composite	-25.69
	5,213.33
Standard & Poor's 500	-6.63
	2,132.55
Russell 2000	-11.47
	1,215.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 17)	\$1.1308
Dollar buys (Oct. 17)	€0.8843
British pound (Oct. 17)	\$1.25
Japanese yen (Oct. 17)	101.00
South Korean won (Oct. 17)	1,103.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2209
Canada (Dollar)	1.3154
China (Yuan)	6.7256
Denmark (Krone)	6.7530
Egypt (Pound)	8.8819
Euro	\$1.1018/9.9076
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.5889
Hungary (Forint)	277.35
Israel (Sheqel)	8.2215
Japan (Yen)	104.22
Malaysia (Ringgit)	4.3907
Norway (Krone)	8.1901
Philippines (Peso)	48.37
Poland (Zloty)	3.91
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3875
South Korea (Won)	1,130.97
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9873
Thailand (Baht)	35.25
Turkey (Lira)	3.0752

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For British pound exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.50
Account with no overdraft	3.00
Federal funds market rate	0.36
3-month bill	0.36
30-year bond	2.48

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	89	67	Cir	Chatanooga	79	61	Cldy	Fort Wayne	75	62	Cldy	Louisville	80	63	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	67	61	Pcdy	Cheyenne	70	46	Cldy	Fresno	77	62	Cldy	Lubbock	89	58	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	63	43	Cir	Chicago	72	64	Cldy	Goodland	84	46	Cir	Macon	81	57	Cir
Albuquerque	81	51	Cir	Cincinnati	78	60	Cldy	Grand Junction	77	50	Pcdy	Madison	70	60	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	66	44	Cir	Cleveland	73	61	Pcdy	Great Falls	59	45	Pcdy	Medford	62	52	Rain
Amarillo	68	49	Cir	Colorado Springs	82	47	Pcdy	Green Bay	68	58	Cldy	Memophis	85	66	Pcdy
Anchorage	43	27	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	74	54	Pcdy	Greensboro, N.C.	68	58	Cldy	Miami Beach	85	77	Cir
Asheville	68	50	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	81	62	Cldy	Harrisburg	65	45	Pcdy	Midland-Odesa	91	64	Cir
Atlanta	77	59	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	59	35	Cir	Hartford	69	48	Pcdy	Milwaukee	70	62	Cldy
Atlantic City	65	43	Cir	Corpus Christi	90	74	Pcdy	Hellena	60	42	Pcdy	Missoula	57	41	Cldy
Austin	64	43	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	89	70	Pcdy	Honolulu	88	74	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	71	50	Cldy
Baltimore	66	49	Cir	Dayton	77	61	Cldy	Houston	88	72	Pcdy	Mobile	80	64	Pcdy
Baton Rouge	88	67	Cir	Daytona Beach	83	72	Cldy	Huntsville	82	60	Cldy	Montgomery	84	65	Cldy
Bilings	66	49	Pcdy	Denver	79	49	Pcdy	Indianapolis	77	62	Cldy	Nashville	81	62	Cldy
Birmingham	81	64	Cldy	Des Moines	74	60	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	87	63	Cldy	New Orleans	85	72	Pcdy
Blmarck	66	43	Cldy	Detroit	72	61	Cldy	Jacksonville	80	66	Cldy	New York City	65	52	Cir
Bismarck	61	47	Cldy	Duluth	64	46	Rain	Juneau	82	43	Cldy	Newark	66	50	Cldy
Boston	59	49	Cir	El Paso	92	62	Cir	Kansas City	80	66	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	68	54	Pcdy
Bridgeport	67	47	Cir	Elkins	71	50	Pcdy	Knoxville	79	58	Cldy	North Platte	82	47	Pcdy
Brownsville	93	75	Pcdy	Erie	70	61	Cir	Lansing	86	69	Cldy	Oaklahoma City	64	66	Cir
Buffalo	70	57	Cir	Eugene	60	53	Rain	Las Vegas	87	66	Cir	Omaha	77	57	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	64	47	Cldy	Evansville	60	53	Rain	Las Vegas	87	66	Cir	Orlando	86	71	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	54	36	Pcdy	Fairbanks	36	9	Cir	Lexington	77	59	Cldy	Paderbach	82	62	Pcdy
Charleston, S.C.	76	59	Pcdy	Fargo	66	44	Cldy	Lincoln	78	57	Cldy	Pendleton	63	48	Rain
Charleston, W.Va.	77	55	Cldy	Flagstaff	69	36	Cir	Little Rock	84	64	Pcdy	Philadelphia	68	49	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	70	51	Pcdy	Fort Smith	86	67	Pcdy	Los Angeles	71	63	Cldy	Phoenix	93	67	Cir
												Pittsburgh	71	55	Cir

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 88, McAllen, Texas
Lo: Thu., 01, 21 miles north of Rudyard, Mont.

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVING AGREED WITH WHAT THOSE MADISON AVENUE EXECUTIVES PROPOSED, I EXCLAIMED "AMEN, ADMEN!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals N



Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS



Jeff Cmi/AP

NBA commissioner Adam Silver speaks during a news conference on June 1 before Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals. Silver said Wednesday discussions will resume on the collective bargaining agreement next week after he returns from China, with two months left before a key deadline.

LeBron: Union prioritizes help for retired players

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI AND TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

NBA players are pushing for more money in the next collective bargaining agreement — for the players who came before them.

Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James, vice president of the NBA's executive committee, told The Associated Press on Thursday the union has made getting aid for retired players a priority in their talks with NBA owners on a new deal.

The NBA and its players have agreed that the next CBA will include new league-funded programs to help retired players with education and medical expenses, four people with knowledge of the situation told the AP. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing.

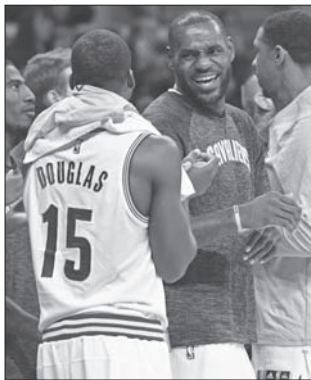
In exchange for those programs, and pending full approval from both sides, the split of basketball-related income would remain the same "50-50" deal as it is in the current agreement.

Deciding on how to divvy up the revenue pie was the biggest obstacle that led to the ugly lockout five years ago. But with that issue essentially taken care of this time around, negotiations have gone much smoother as both sides look to reach an agreement on a new deal before the Dec. 15 deadline to opt out.

For James, NBA President Chris Paul and the rest of the union, taking care of those who are no longer playing is a worthy compromise for trying to recoup any of the financial ground lost during the 2011 labor dispute.

"We got a group of guys that are in there that know the negotiations, so any way to give back and try to help our former teammates and help former players and things of that nature," James said. "Because we've all built this league together. No matter how big of a guy you were or if you were the 15th guy on the bench, we all built this league into what it is today. But it's not just my idea. I'm not taking any credit for that. But it's all part of the process."

Mike Glenn, a 10-year NBA veteran and a member of the National Basketball Retired Players Association's board of directors, said the CBA has dominated conversations among retirees for more



DAVID DERMER/AP

Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, laughs with guard Tony Douglas during the second half of a preseason game in Cleveland on Oct. 9. James said the players' union is pushing for league-funded programs to help retired players with education and medical expenses.

than a year.

"We're very thankful to Chris Paul, LeBron and others who have provided the leadership to include us in the negotiations, and have the foresight to see that they'll be us in a couple of years," said Glenn, currently an Atlanta Hawks analyst for Fox Sports Southeast. "There are so many guys with medical issues, who have had hip and knee replacements. With the cost of health care going up, it would be the biggest thing that's happened for retirees in 10 years."

Briefly

Tigers-Gators game moved to Louisiana

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — LSU and 18th-ranked Florida will play after all this season, albeit in a different state than originally scheduled, which didn't leave the Gators entirely happy with the solution.

The old Southeastern Conference rivals, whose game last weekend was postponed by Hurricane Matthew, are now scheduled to play Nov. 19 at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.

The SEC made the announcement Thursday, ending a week of speculation about what would happen to the game originally scheduled for last Saturday in Gainesville.

The teams had to buy out non-conference opponents scheduled for that Saturday; LSU will pay \$1.5 million to South Alabama and Florida \$500,000 to Presbyterian.

The arrangement means the Tigers (3-2, 2-1 SEC) will avoid playing three consecutive SEC road games over a 13-day span to end the regular season; LSU was already scheduled at Arkansas on Nov. 12 and at Texas A&M on Nov. 24. The 18th-ranked Gators (4-1, 2-1) will lose two homes games — about \$7.8 million in projected revenue from ticket sales alone — but likely will recoup some of that through insurance.

LSU also agreed to play in Gainesville instead of Baton Rouge in 2017, which gets the Gators one game back. In 2018, the annual Tigers-Gators match-up will return to Florida again, as it normally would.

FIFA won't let Europe host 2026 World Cup

ZURICH — North America became a stronger favorite to host an expanded World Cup in 2026 after FIFA essentially barred Euro-

pean countries from bidding on Friday.

The FIFA Council agreed that UEFA and Asian confederation members should not bid again so soon after Russia hosts the 2018 World Cup and Qatar has the 2022 tournament.

FIFA said Europe would be put on standby only if "none of the received bids fulfill the strict technical and financial requirements."

That's unlikely if the United States bids as expected, either alone or with Canada and Mexico. FIFA favors co-hosting among regional neighbors, and a three-way bid could be more popular if the tournament grows to 40 or 48 teams.

FIFA has targeted 2020 for its member federations to choose the 2026 host.

Winless Browns place guard Bitonio on IR

CLEVELAND — The injury-thinned and winless Browns placed starting offensive guard Joel Bitonio on injured reserve with a sprained foot, likely ending his season.

Bitonio sustained a mid-foot sprain in Sunday's loss to New England. The loss of Bitonio is another blow to the Browns, who have been ravaged by injuries, forcing them to start three quarterbacks in five games.

A second-round pick in 2014, Bitonio started 31 games in two-plus seasons with Cleveland. He has developed into one of the NFL's top guards in a short time and his injury will force coach Hue Jackson to shuffle his offensive line, something he has had to do all season.

Under new league rules, teams can bring back a player on IR after eight games but all indications are that Bitonio's season is over.

An advertisement for the NFL Challenge. It features a night-time view of a football field with stadium lights. The text "Play to win a weekly prize. Play for the Grand Prize. Play for bragging rights. Play for fun. Just play." is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, it says "STARS & STRIPES. NFL CHALLENGE" and "Play today at Stripes.com/nfl".

NHL

Roundup

Penguins edge Capitals in SO

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Marc-Andre Fleury spent the better part of the Pittsburgh Penguins' push to a fourth Stanley Cup watching from the bench while rookie Matt Murray backstopped the franchise to a title.

Yet rather than trade the win-winning goaltender in team history in the offseason, the Penguins hung onto him, confident they could find a way to make their two-goalie tandem work.

Maybe they're right. With Murray out with a broken hand, Fleury made 39 saves in regulation and overtime, then stuffed Washington star Alexander Ovechkin in the fourth round of a shootout as the Penguins edged the Capitals 3-2 in the season opener on Thursday night.

Fleury had a chance to end things after three rounds but let Nicklas Backstrom slip the puck past him and extend the game. Pittsburgh's Phil Kessel then beat Braden Holtby with a wrist shot initially ruled no goal but being overturned on replay and Fleury stuffed Ovechkin to help the Penguins improve to 5-0 all-time against Washington in openers.

"It didn't finish it out, so I was a little mad," Fleury said. "It was nice to see (Kessel) put that in and I had a chance to redeem myself and finish it out."

Patric Horvath and Evgeni Malkin scored as the Penguins capped a celebratory night in which they lifted their latest Stanley Cup banner to the rafters during an electric pregame ceremony by tripping up one of their biggest rivals.

"It felt like a midseason game where you're in position and you pull one of those great wins off," Horvath said.

Andre Burakovsky scored twice for Washington and Holtby made 28 stops but allowed three goals in the shootout.

"Obviously they have a lot of energy coming off the ceremony and we've been waiting to play some meaningful games for a while here," said Holtby, who won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender last season. "Two good teams and it always ends up in a pretty good game against them."

Rangers 5, Islanders 3: Chris Kreider scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 25 shots in the Rangers' victory over their Long Island rivals.

Michael Grabner, Mats Zuccarello, Brandon Prust and J.T. Miller also scored for the Rangers at Madison Square Garden in

the opener for both teams.

Panthers 2, Devils 1 (OT): Aleksander Barkov scored at 2:48 of overtime to lift host Florida past New Jersey.

Barkov took a pass from Michael Matheson and one-timed the winner past Cory Schneider. Matheson knocked Damon Severson off the puck behind the net, then found Barkov unmarked in the right circle.

Stars 4, Ducks 2: Antoine Roussel scored the tiebreaking goal for host Dallas against Anaheim.

Roussel scored on a pass from Adam Cracknell 1:23 into the third period, 22 seconds after Andrew Cogliano's second goal for the Ducks tied it at 2. Cracknell later added a goal.

Lightning 6, Red Wings 4: Tyler Johnson scored the go-ahead power-play goal off a nifty pass from Steven Stamkos midway through the third period and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Johnson was positioned at the right circle and redirected Stamkos' feed past Petr Mrazek at 8:34 to put the Lightning up 4-3, just 5 seconds after Detroit was called for too many men on the ice.

Canadiens 4, Sabres 1: Brendan Gallagher scored twice, including a tip-in on Shea Weber's shot, in visiting Montreal's victory over injury-depleted Buffalo.

Al Montoya made 30 saves in place of starter Carey Price, who was sidelined by the flu. Andrew Shaw, who was acquired in a trade with Chicago in June, and Torrey Mitchell also scored for Montreal.

Jets 5, Hurricanes 4 (OT): Mark Scheifele scored at 2:41 of overtime to give host Winnipeg a victory over Carolina in the opener for both teams.

After the Jets overcame a 4-1 deficit in the third period, Scheifele took a pass from captain Blake Wheeler and beat goalie Cam Ward.

Bruins 6, Blue Jackets 3: Brad Marchand had two goals and three assists and visiting Boston overcame a 2-0 first-period deficit to beat Columbus.

David Pastrnak had two goals and two assists, David Backes also scored twice and had an assist, and Tuukka Rask made 28 saves.

Blues 3, Wild 2: Nail Yakupov had a goal and an assist and Jake Allen made several big stops and finished with 18 saves to help host St. Louis beat Minnesota.

Alexander Steen and Magnus Paajarvi also scored, and Patrik Berglund had two assists.

Evan Suter and Charlie Coyle scored for the Wild.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Boston	1	1	0	0	2	6	4	1	4
Montreal	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Florida	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Toronto	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Detroit	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Buffalo	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	0	2	3	3	2	3
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2
New Jersey	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2
Washington	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2
N.Y. Islanders	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2
Columbus	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	2

Western Conference									
Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
St. Louis	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Dallas	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Winnipeg	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Colorado	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Nashville	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Minnesota	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4
Chicago	1	1	0	0	2	8	5	1	4

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Edmonton	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
San Jose	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
Arizona	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
Calgary	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
Anaheim	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4
San Jose at Colorado	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	1	4

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime.

Wednesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1

Thursday's games
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 5, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Friday's games
Chicago at Nashville
Edmonton at Calgary
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Saturday's games
Winnipeg at Minnesota
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Detroit at Toronto
Calgary at Colorado
Detroit at Florida
Anaheim at Pittsburgh
San Jose at Columbus
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Arizona 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver
Calgary at Vancouver

Sunday's games
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at Edmonton
Carolina at Vancouver

Monday's games
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Tuesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Wednesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Thursday's games
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 5, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Friday's games
Chicago at Nashville
Edmonton at Calgary
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Saturday's games
Winnipeg at Minnesota
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Detroit at Toronto
Calgary at Colorado
Detroit at Florida
Anaheim at Pittsburgh
San Jose at Columbus
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Arizona 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver
Calgary at Vancouver

Sunday's games
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at Edmonton
Carolina at Vancouver

Monday's games
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
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Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Tuesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Wednesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Thursday's games
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 5, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Friday's games
Chicago at Nashville
Edmonton at Calgary
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Saturday's games
Winnipeg at Minnesota
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Detroit at Toronto
Calgary at Colorado
Detroit at Florida
Anaheim at Pittsburgh
San Jose at Columbus
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Arizona 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver
Calgary at Vancouver

Sunday's games
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at Edmonton
Carolina at Vancouver

Monday's games
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
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Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Tuesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
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Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
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Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Wednesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Thursday's games
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 5, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Friday's games
Chicago at Nashville
Edmonton at Calgary
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Saturday's games
Winnipeg at Minnesota
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N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Arizona 9 p.m.
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Sunday's games
Anaheim at N.Y. Islanders
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Carolina at Vancouver

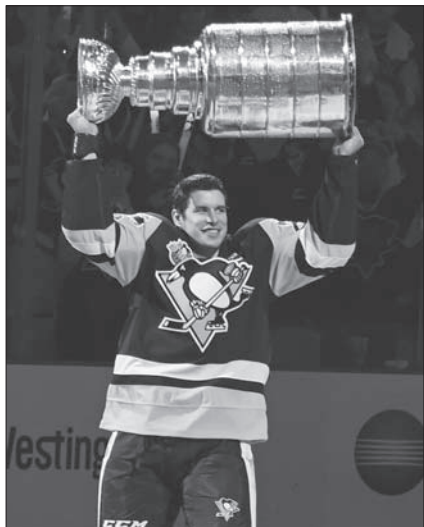
Monday's games
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St. Louis 3, Washington 2
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Tuesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
St. Louis 5, Chicago 2
Edmonton 1, Calgary 4
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Wednesday's games
Ottawa 5, Toronto 4, OT
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St. Louis 3, Washington 2
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Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Thursday's games
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 5, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4
Florida 2, New Jersey 1, OT
St. Louis 3, Washington 2
Winnipeg 5, Carolina 4
Pittsburgh 3, Minnesota 2
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2

Friday's games
Chicago at Nashville
Edmonton at Calgary
Philadelphia at Los Angeles



FRED VUICH/AP

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby skates the Stanley Cup onto the ice before Thursday's season opener against the Capitals in Pittsburgh, Pa. Although Crosby brought the Cup onto the ice, he wasn't available to play because he's still recovering from a concussion.

Rangers 5, Islanders 3									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	3	3	3	3			
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	3	5	5	5			
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Grabner									
1 (Fast, Pirri, 13:41)	1	1	3	5	5	5			
Second Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, Zuccarello									
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad, 17:41)	1	1	3	5	5	5			
Third Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Leddy									
1 (Hamonic, Cizikas), 0:47, 4, N.Y. Islanders, Clutterbuck	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Kulemin, Cizikas), 6:04, 5, N.Y. Rangers, Krider	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Holden, Buchnevich), 9:45, 6, N.Y. Rangers, Pirri	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Zibanejad, Krider), 16:17, 7, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Hayes), 17:37, 8, N.Y. Islanders, Nelson	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Beauvillier, Bailey), 18:25, 9, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 10, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 11, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 12, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 13, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 14, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 15, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
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1 (Skjel, Zibanejad), 19:41, 29, N.Y. Islanders, Miller	1	1	3	5	5	5			
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MLB PLAYOFFS

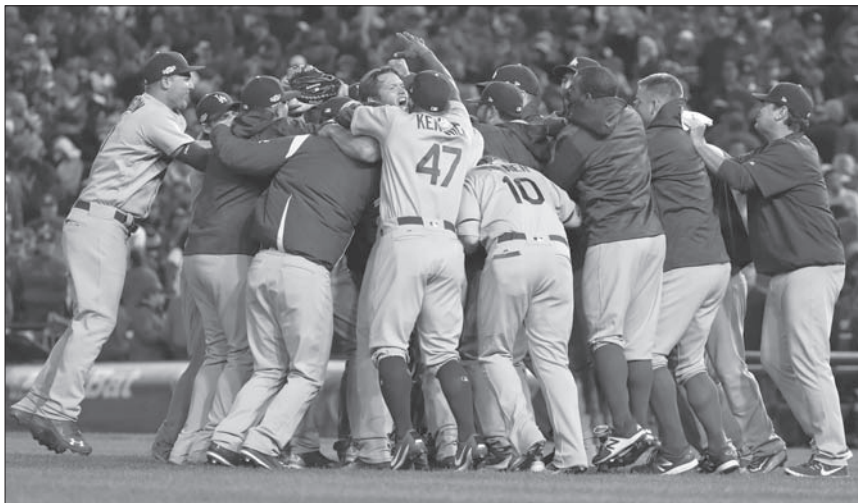
Scoreboard

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-five)	
American League	
Toronto 3, Texas 0	
Toronto 10, Texas 1	
Toronto 5, Texas 3	
Toronto 7, Texas 6, 10 innings	
Cleveland 3, Boston 0	
Cleveland 5, Boston 4	
Cleveland 6, Boston 0	
Cleveland 4, Boston 3	
National League	
Chicago 3, San Francisco 1	
Chicago 1, San Francisco 0	
Chicago 5, San Francisco 2	
San Francisco 6, Chicago 5, 13 innings	
Chicago 6, San Francisco 5	
Los Angeles 3, Washington 2	
Los Angeles 4, Washington 3	
Washington 5, Los Angeles 2	
Washington 8, Los Angeles 3	
Los Angeles 6, Washington 5	
Thursday Los Angeles 4, Washington 3	
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Best-of-seven, x-if necessary)	
American League	
Toronto vs. Cleveland	
Friday: at Cleveland	
Saturday: at Cleveland	
Monday, Oct. 17: at Toronto	
Tuesday, Oct. 18: at Toronto	
x-Wednesday, Oct. 19: at Toronto	
x-Friday, Oct. 21: at Cleveland	
x-Saturday, Oct. 22: at Cleveland	
National League	
Chicago vs. Los Angeles	
Saturday: at Chicago	
Sunday: at Chicago	
Tuesday, Oct. 18: at Los Angeles	
Wednesday, Oct. 19: at Los Angeles	
x-Thursday, Oct. 20: at Los Angeles	
x-Saturday, Oct. 22: at Chicago	
x-Sunday, Oct. 23: at Chicago	

Thursday	
Dodgers 4, Nationals 3	
Los Angeles	Washington
Utley 2b	3 0 0 0
C.Rizp ph-c	2 1 1 0
C.Sager ss	5 0 0 0
Ju.Trry 3b	4 0 1 2
Ad.Gonz 1b	1 0 1 0
Reddick rf	4 0 1 0
Pederson lf	3 2 1 0
Grandal c	1 0 0 0
A.Bries pr	0 0 0 0
Dayton p	0 0 0 0
Jansen p	0 0 0 0
Kershaw p	0 0 0 0
Tolles lf	2 0 1 0
Kendrick ph-1	1 1 1 0
R.Hill p	1 0 0 0
Blanton p	0 0 0 0
Ethier ph	1 0 0 0
Urias p	0 0 0 0
Clayton ph-2	2 0 0 0
Totals	33 4 8 4
Los Angeles	000 000 400-4
Washington	010 000 200-3
DP—Washington 1, LOB—Los Angeles 8, Washington 11, 2B—Zimmerman (2), SB—Justin Turner (1), H—Joe Pederson (1), Hsieh (1), SB—Turner (2), Harper (3), D.Murphy 2 (2), S—Jensen (1).	

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	E	BB	SO
Hill	2 1/3	3	1	1	2	6
Blanton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urias W-1-0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Dayton	0	2	2	2	0	0
Jansen H-1	2 1/3	1	0	0	4	4
Kershaw S-1-1	1 1/3	0	0	0	0	1
Washington						
Scherzer	6	5	1	1	2	7
Rodriguez Lp-1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Treinen	1/3	1	1	1	0	0
Solis	0	1	0	0	0	0
Kelley	0	1	0	0	0	0
Perez	1	0	0	0	1	0
Melancan	1	0	0	0	0	0

The Dodgers' Joe Pederson points skyward after seventh-inning home run against the Nationals on Thursday.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

The Dodgers celebrate Thursday after the last out of Game 5 of their National League Division Series against the Washington Nationals in Washington. Los Angeles won 4-3 to advance to the National League Championship Series, where it will face the Chicago Cubs.

Finish: Kershaw closes out series on three days' rest

FROM BACK PAGE

The Dodgers won the last two games of the best-of-five NLDS with Kershaw pitching in each and now head to the NL Championship Series to face the Chicago Cubs. That opens at Wrigley Field on Saturday night.

The Nationals, meanwhile, still have never won a postseason series, winning three NL East titles in the past five years but losing in the NLDS each time.

And while there's no way Kershaw will be available for Game 1 against Chicago, one thing's for sure: Whatever notion there might have been about the lefty's playoff problems—he was 2-6 in the postseason until this series, with an ERA nearly twice what he has in the regular season—is now a thing of the past.

"That [criticism] is ridiculous," Dodgers President Stan Kasten said, his dress shirt soaked with alcohol from the postgame festivities. "That's why I said to him, 'Dude, you're Mr. October.'"

Kershaw worked two days after throwing 110 pitches over 6 2/3 innings in Game 4, when he had the benefit of only three days' rest following his win in the opener against the Nationals.

"Nobody would it more than him — his tireless work ethic and how much he competes. And just for him to go up and tell them, 'Hey, I can come in and close this thing out if you need me,' just says so much about the type of player he is," said Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner, whose two-run triple in the seventh helped L.A. build its lead. "He's a winner. He's a champion."

How unanticipated was this work as a reliever? Several hours before Thursday's game began, Dodgers first-year manager Dave Roberts was asked whether Kershaw might be available at all — maybe just for one out, say? "No," came Roberts' reply. "Absolutely not."

Turned out the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner would get a pair of outs in his first relief appearance since the 2009 playoffs.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner, right, and teammates celebrate in the locker room after Thursday's 4-3 win over the Washington Nationals.

high seven outs. Jansen walked Bryce Harper and Jayson Werth with one out in the ninth — and that's when Roberts went to Kershaw.

Kershaw wound up with his second save. His other came on Aug. 19, 2006, in the Gulf Coast League in a game against the Nationals' rookie club.

L.A.'s scoring all came in a four-run seventh off six Nationals pitchers, including Joe Pederson's homer off Max Scherzer.

"It's the craziest game I've ever been a part of," said Scherzer, who took a no-hitter into the fifth. "We just didn't get it done. No one's a goat. No one made a crucial misplay. Every body stepped up and did their game. We just didn't get that extra run."

Washington was leading 1-0 in the sixth, when Werth walked and Ryan Zimmerman smacked a two-out double to left. But third-base coach Bob Henley — whose propensity for waving runners home led to a popular T-shirt among Nationals players that says, "Send 'em short, send 'em tall, send 'em one,

send 'em all" — sent Werth and saw him get thrown out easily on shortstop Corey Seager's relay.

Wasn't even close.

"You live and die by those moments, sometimes," Werth said.

Matchup: The Cubs were 4-3 against the Dodgers this year. The only other time they met in the postseason was the 2008 NLDS, which L.A. swept.

One-and-done: The East champion Nationals are one-and-done in the playoffs yet again, losing in the NLDS yet again. Washington was beaten in five games in 2012 by St. Louis, and in four games in 2014 by San Francisco. Take it back further, and a baseball club based in the nation's capital hasn't won a postseason series since the old Senators were the 1924 World Series champions.

"I'm not ready to go home," Nationals first-year manager Dusty Baker said. "I haven't been home since February, but I would have gladly stayed a couple more weeks."

MLB PLAYOFFS



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Cubs pitcher Jon Lester swings during a team workout on Thursday in preparation for Saturday's National League Championship Series Game 1 in Chicago against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Lester gets nod for Game 1

Hendricks' health to determine rotation for rest of series

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jon Lester is all set for Game 1 of the NL Championship Series on Saturday night. The rest of the Chicago Cubs' rotation depends on the health of Kyle Hendricks.

Hendricks left Game 2 of the Division Series against San Francisco when a comebacker went off his right forearm in the fourth inning. He had a bullpen session Thursday, and the Cubs are waiting to see how he feels before confirming the major league ERA leader for Game 2 on Sunday night.

"Just find out where Kyle is. Just making sure that he's healthy," manager Joe Maddon said. "He threw today. You always wait a little bit to find out if there's any after-effect of that and then you make your determination. But that's about it, just health."

Hendricks is coming off a breakout season, going 16-8 with a 2.13 ERA this year that included a 9-2 record and 1.32 ERA in 15 home games.

Hendricks comes through the bullpen session just fine, he likely would be followed by Jake Arrieta in Game 3 and then John Lackey. The four playoff starters combined for 64 of Chicago's major league-leading 103 wins this season, and it sounds as if the Cubs feel they will be OK no matter how it shakes out.



Game 1: Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs

AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Saturday CET

"I have a lot of faith in our guys. They've been doing it all year," Maddon said on a brisk day at Wrigley Field. "They're absolutely rested going into this moment, so I feel very strongly about our starting pitching."

The only major question for Chicago is its NLCS roster. The Cubs were waiting for their opponent before the Dodgers' 4-3 victory over the Nationals in Game 5 of their NL Division Series on Thursday night, so they were planning to have more detailed roster discussions on Friday.

"We debated 11 pitchers versus 12 a lot before that last series, and I'm sure that'll be the same debate," general manager Jed Hoyer said before Los Angeles' win. "Which way we end up going I'm not sure. There was parts of the last series that pushed for both, really. There were moments when we were glad you had the extra position player. There were moments you wanted the extra pitcher."

Chicago was nearly pushed to a decisive Game 5 by San Francisco, but the Cubs rallied for four runs in the ninth inning of their series-clinching 6-5 win on Tuesday. Asked how much he



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Cubs manager Joe Maddon said the team will wait to see if Kyle Hendricks is healthy enough to start Game 2 before determining the rest of Chicago's rotation in the NLCS.

had watched that ninth inning, a chuckling Hoyer responded "a lot."

"It was great. I thought the purpose of our guys' at-bats was really wonderful," Hoyer said.

"The Cubs also made it to the NLCS last year and then managed just eight runs and 21 hits in a sweep by the New York Mets. But they are hoping momentum from the rally against the Giants, their experience from last year and home-field advantage will lead to a different result this time around.

"I do have a lot of faith in our guys," Maddon said. "I'd like to believe that just getting to this next moment might chill everybody out even a little bit more."

Dodgers vs. Cubs: A capsule look

Schedule

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
Saturday: at Chicago
Sunday: at Chicago
Tuesday: at Los Angeles
Wednesday: at Los Angeles
x-Thursday, Oct. 20: at Los Angeles
x-Friday, Oct. 22: at Chicago
x-Saturday, Oct. 23: at Chicago

Season series

Cubs won 4-3.

Projected lineup

Dodgers		Avg.	HR	RBI
2B	Chase Utley	.252	14	52
2B	Charlie Culberson	.284	1	7
SS	Corey Seager	.308	26	72
3B	Justin Turner	.275	27	102
1B	Adrian Gonzalez	.269	18	90
RF	Josh Reddick	.258	2	9
RF	Yaseli Puig	.267	11	45
CF	Joe Pederson	.246	5	68
C	Yasmani Grandal	.228	27	72
LF	Howie Kendrick	.255	8	40
LF	Drew Toles	.314	3	16
CF	Andretonio Frazier	.276	13	48
3B	Kris Bryant	.292	39	102
1B	Kris Bryant	.292	39	102
1B	Anthony Rizzo	.292	32	109
2B	Ben Zobrist	.272	18	76
LF	Ben Zobrist	.272	18	76
SS	Addison Russell	.238	21	59
RF	Rafael Heyward	.230	7	49
2B	Javier Baez	.273	14	59
3B	Javier Baez	.273	14	59
SS	Javier Baez	.273	14	59
C	Miguel Montero	.216	8	33
C	Willson Contreras	.282	12	35
C	David Ross	.229	10	32

Projected rotation

Dodgers		Record	ERA
RH	Kenta Maeda	16-11	3.46
LH	Clayton Kershaw	12-4	1.69
LH	Rich Hill	3-2	1.83
LH	Julio Urias	5-2	3.39
LH	Jon Lester	19-5	2.44
RH	Rhyle Hendricks	16-8	2.13
RH	Jake Arrieta	11-8	3.10
RH	John Lackey	1-18	3.35

Matchups

One of these big-market teams is going to end a substantial drought. While the Cubs are looking for their first pennant since 1945 and World Series title since 1988, the Dodgers have been to the Fall Classic since winning their 1988 championship. ... Series features two of baseball's oldest and most popular ballparks in Wrigley Field and Dodger Stadium. ... Chicago took three of four from Dodgers in a low-scoring series at Wrigley from May 30 to June 2, getting wins from Lester and Hendricks. Los Angeles won two of three meetings at home in late August, dropping the opener 6-4 in 10 innings before winning the final two games 3-2 and 1-0. ... Cubs avoided Kershaw and Maeda during the regular season. They also faced Hill, who was acquired from Oakland on Aug. 1. ... Cubs led the majors with 103 wins in the regular season, 12 more than Los Angeles.

Big picture

Dodgers

With a \$234 million opening day payroll, high in the majors, the Dodgers (91-71) reached the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year in Dave Roberts' first season as manager. The Dodgers have won four straight NL West titles, a first for the storied franchise, and surpassed 90 wins for the fourth season in a row. But they are still looking for their first trip to the World Series since Kirk Gibson, Orel Hershiser & Co. won it all as big underdogs in 1985. Los Angeles was beaten in the NLCS three times from 2008-13, then lost in the NLDS each of the past two years. They just squeezed by Washington, though, with a trio one-run wins. ... Roberts and Tom Lasorda (1977) are the only rookie managers to lead the club to a division title. Gonzalez had 90 RBIs for the 10th consecutive season, becoming the only major leaguer to do so. ... Grandal, Seager, Justin Turner and Pederson gave the Dodgers four players with 25 or more home runs for the fourth time in franchise history and first since 1991. ... Dodgers pitchers recorded 1,510 strikeouts, a major league record.

It is the year the Cubs at long last win the World Series? Favorites since opening day, Chicago (103-58) entered the playoffs with a large, excited fan base hoping against hope that the first championship in more than a century would come. ... The Cubs jumped out to a 2-5 start on the way to a new title in the NL East. ... The team knocked off San Francisco in a thrilling NLDS. They rallied for four runs in the ninth inning of Game 4 to eliminate the pesky Giants and secure their second straight trip to the NLCS. ... It's a first franchise. Swept by the New York Mets last season, they're hoping for a better result this time. ... Bryant, a favorite for NL MVP after winning Rookie of the Year last season, was 6-for-16 with a home run against the Giants. During the regular season, he joined Roberts as the first Hack Wilson (1930) and Derrek Lee (2005) as the only players to hit a home run away with at least 120 runs, 35 doubles, 39 homers and 100 RBIs. ... Cubs pitchers led the majors with a 3.15 ERA. They gave up the fewest runs (556) and hits (1,125).

What to watch for

■ **The Target:** Well aware of the club's 108-year championship drought, the Cubs showed up for spring training bolstered by the additions of Heyward, Zobrist and Lackey, and with a new slogan coined by Maddon: "Embrace the Target." The phrase went on a T-shirt, and the Cubs could not have worn it any better during the regular season. They won the division by 17½ games and finished with eight more wins than any other team. They had the depth and versatility to withstand injuries and the poise to pull out 14 wins in their final at-bat. Then they added two more in the NLDS against playoff-tested San Francisco. But the Cubs are still chasing that target, and the postseason pressure remains.

■ **At the hole:** As sensational as Kershaw has been throughout his career, he's struggled in the postseason. The three-time Cy Young Award winner and 2014 NL MVP is 3-4 with a 4.79 ERA in 16 playoff games, 12 starts, over eight series since 2008. Kershaw again was far from his best in two NLDS starts against Washington, but he won the opener and saved the finale. Maybe coming through his signature home runs, he's worn out. The left-hander missed more than two months with a back injury before returning in September. While he was sidelined, Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw posted a first-place slugging percentage.

■ **Top that:** That's what you'll hear if you have a hard time even approximating his performance in the postseason. When he went toe-to-toe with Cuetto's 1-0 win, Lester dominated over eight innings, finishing with his final 13 batters.

He held the Dodgers to one run in 15 innings over two starts this season.

— Associated Press

Chicago Cubs closer Aroldis Chapman

Ben Margot/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Player to watch

Wayne Gallman RB | Clemson

The Tigers' junior, who set the single-season school record with 1,527 yards last year, finally looks like he's found his form. He went for 109 yards on nine carries at Boston College, highlighted by a 59-yard TD run to start Clemson's scoring. This week he'll try to give Clemson its fifth-straight win over the Wolfpack's stingy defense.

North Carolina State at No. 3 Clemson

6 p.m. Saturday

Central European Time

AFN-Sports



SAMANTHA BAKER/AP

Arkansas quarterback Austin Allen (8) is pulled to the ground by Alabama's Rashaan Evan during last week's 49-30 TD victory. After two losses in its last three games, Arkansas needs to finish strong to improve its win total for a fourth straight season. The Razorbacks' schedule doesn't get any easier this week when they host No. 12 Mississippi (1 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time).

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
	Conf.	W	L
Clemson	3	0	6
NC State	2	1	4
Wake Forest	2	1	5
Louisville	2	1	4
Florida St.	1	2	4
Boston College	0	3	3
Syracuse	0	2	4
Coastal Division			
	Conf.	W	L
Virginia Tech	2	0	4
Virginia	2	0	4
North Carolina	2	1	4
Miami	1	1	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	4
Georgia Tech	1	3	3
Duke	0	2	3

Game of the week: North Carolina State at No. 3 Clemson. First place in the Atlantic Division is on the line in this matchup of the only two teams in the division without a conference loss. N.C. State (4-1, 1-0) has won three straight. But the Wolfpack will have to contend with Death Valley — where they haven't won since 2002. DeShaun Watson and the Tigers (6-0, 3-0) have won 12 straight ACC games. **Inside the numbers:** Four ACC players are averaging at least 300 yards of total offense, with Heisman Trophy contender Lamar Jackson of Louisville leading the way with 462.6 total yards per game.

Player to watch: Virginia QB Kurt Benkert. The East Carolina transfer is in his first year as a starter is throwing for 291 yards per game, has thrown eight touchdown passes in his last two games and is coming off an idle week. Now he faces a Pittsburgh pass defense that ranks 13th in the ACC and has given up 10 touchdown passes in its last four games.

Big Ten			
East			
	Conf.	W	L
Michigan	3	0	6
Ohio St.	2	0	5
Penn St.	2	1	4
Maryland	1	1	4
Indiana	1	1	3
Michigan St.	0	3	2
Rutgers	0	2	4
West			
	Conf.	W	L
Nebraska	2	0	5
Iowa	2	0	4
Wisconsin	1	1	4
Purdue	1	1	3
Northwestern	1	1	3
Minnesota	0	2	3
Illinois	0	2	3

Game of the week: No. 2 Ohio State at No. 8 Wisconsin. Buckeyes can pad their playoff résumé with a win in what could be their toughest remaining road game, in prime time at raucous Camp Randall Stadium. Trips to unranked Penn State, Maryland and Michigan State also loom on the schedule. Playing a third straight top-10 opponent, Wisconsin can solidify its status as a Big Ten contender by pulling off an upset at home.

Inside the numbers: Michigan State, which was ranked No. 12 before the season, has lost three straight for the first time since 2009 and for the third time since Mark Dantonio took over the program in 2007. **Player to watch:** Indiana QB Richard Lagow. The junior college transfer is making his fifth career FBS start — and his third straight against a ranked team. Lagow leads the league in yards passing per game (292.0) and is tied for second in TD passes (11). Lagow will try to lead the Hoosiers past No. 10 Nebraska on Saturday.

Big 12			
	Conf.	W	L
Baylor	2	0	5
West Virginia	1	0	4
Oklahoma	2	0	3
TCU	2	1	4
Oklahoma St.	2	1	4
Texas Tech	1	1	3
Kansas St.	1	1	3
Texas	0	2	4
Kansas	0	2	4
Iowa St.	0	3	1

Game of the week: No. 20 West Virginia (4-0, 1-0) at Texas Tech (3-2, 1-1). WVU is undefeated this season with no more than 38 points in a game. Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen was a Texas Tech assistant for eight seasons, and was a receivers coach from 2000-02 when Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury was a record-setting quarterback there. They have split four games as Big 12 foes, with the Mountaineers winning the last two by a combined eight points.

Inside the numbers: Kansas State last week got its 100th Big 12 victory, joining Texas and Oklahoma as the only teams to do that since the league's inception in 1996. **Player to watch:** Texas running back D'Onta Foreman. The junior leads the Big 12 and is second nationally with 148.8 yards rushing per game. His seven TDs give him a league-leading 10.5 points per game. Foreman is coming off a season-high 159 yards against Oklahoma, his third consecutive two-TD game.

Pac-12			
North			
	Conf.	W	L
Washington	3	0	6
Washington St.	2	0	3
Stanford	2	3	2
Oregon St.	1	1	2
California	1	2	3
Oregon	0	3	2
South			
	Conf.	W	L
Arizona St.	2	1	5
Utah	2	1	5
Colorado	2	1	4
Southern Cal	2	2	3
UCLA	1	2	3
Arizona	0	3	2

Game of the week: Stanford at Notre Dame. Two preseason top 10 teams trying to salvage what are quickly becoming lost seasons: The Cardinal (3-2), coming off a 42-16 loss to Washington State, could possibly be without Heisman hopeful running back Christian McCaffrey. Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly is trying to help the Irish (2-4) avoid his first losing season since his first year at Central Michigan in 2004.

Inside the numbers: With three field goals in Arizona State's 23-20 win over UCLA last week, Sun Devils senior Zane Gonzalez set the FBS record for career field goals with 89. **Player to watch:** Colorado tailback Philip Lindsay. The junior's never-shy-away-from-contact running approach and passionate leadership has the Buffaloes in contention for a Pac-12 South title as they host Arizona State on Saturday. Last week, he had six catches for 105 yards — the most yards receiving for a Colorado tailback in nearly 15 years.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force vs. New Mexico
at Dallas
Last week: Lost to Wyoming 35-38
Next game: vs. Hawaii Oct. 22

Army vs. Lafayette
Last week: Lost to Duke 13-6
Next game: vs. North Texas, Oct. 22

Navy does not play
Last week: Seat Houston 46-40
Next game: vs. Memphis Oct. 22

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday	
No. 7 Louisville vs. Duke	
Saturday	
No. 1 Alabama at No. 9 Tennessee	
No. 2 Ohio State at No. 8 Wisconsin	
No. 3 Clemson vs. NC State	
No. 10 Nebraska at Indiana	
No. 11 Baylor vs. Kansas	
No. 12 Mississippi at No. 22 Arkansas	
No. 13 Houston vs. Tulsa	
No. 14 Florida State vs. Wake Forest	
No. 15 Boise State vs. Colorado State	
No. 16 Miami vs. North Carolina	
No. 17 Virginia Tech at Syracuse	
No. 18 Florida vs. Missouri	
No. 19 Oklahoma vs. Kansas State	
No. 20 West Virginia at Texas Tech	
No. 21 Utah at Oregon State	
No. 24 Western Michigan at Akron	

SEC			
East			
	Conf.	W	L
Tennessee	2	1	5
Florida	2	1	4
Kentucky	2	2	3
South Carolina	2	1	4
Missouri	0	2	3
Vanderbilt	0	3	2
West			
	Conf.	W	L
Texas A&M	2	0	6
Alabama	2	0	6
Auburn	2	1	4
LSU	2	1	4
Ole Miss	2	1	4
Mississippi St.	1	2	3
Arkansas	1	2	3

Game of the week: No. 1 Alabama at No. 9 Tennessee. The Volunteers have lost the last nine games in this series, but they've come closer lately. Tennessee led in the fourth quarter at Alabama last year before falling 19-14. Tennessee also is seeking to end a 12-game losing streak against SEC West foes. Tennessee hasn't beaten a West team since defeating Mississippi State in 2010. **Inside the numbers:** Tennessee already has fumbled 21 times — the most of any FBS team — and has lost eight of those fumbles through the first six games of the season. The Vols had 20 fumbles and lost seven of them in 13 games last season. **Player to watch:** Florida QB Luke Del Rio. After missing two games with an injured left knee, Del Rio returns to action Saturday against Missouri and tries to help the Gators remain in Eastern Division contention. Del Rio had thrown for 762 yards with six TD passes and two interceptions in three starts before getting hurt.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Five things for Week 7

Dobbs has chance to make Heisman case

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Road games are hard.

So when the top two teams in the nation are playing top-10 opponents away from home that sounds like a recipe for a major shake-up at the top of the rankings.

No. 1 Alabama goes to No. 9 Tennessee on Saturday and No. 2 Ohio State faces No. 8 Wisconsin in Madison at night, highlighting Week 7 of the college football season.

Here are five things to know as the 2016 campaign reaches its midway point.

Best game: The Volunteers and Badgers can send shock waves across the country, but if you're looking for a higher likelihood for entertainment, No. 12 Mississippi at No. 22 Arkansas is it.

You might recall the Rebels and Razorbacks played one of the wildest games of last season, a double-overtime thriller that included a play hard to believe even after you see it. This year Arkansas replaces one Allen brother (Brandon) for another (Austin) at quarterback and Chad Kelly returns for Ole Miss.

The highest rated passers in the SEC face two of the worst defenses in the conference.

Heisman watch: Beating the No. 1 team in the country is a nice way to get into the Heisman Trophy conversation. Here's your chance Josh Dobbs.

This will be Tennessee's fourth straight week playing the showcase game on the SEC schedule at 3:30 ET on CBS. The Vols have't disappointed, playing three straight wild games.

Dobbs has been at the center of all the rallies. He is fourth in the nation in total yards at 333.7 per game and he has accounted for 19 touchdowns (14 passing, five rushing). The Vols have lost nine straight to Alabama.

Numbers to know: 0—No. 24 Western Michigan (6-0) has not turned the ball over while getting off to its best start since 1941. The

Broncos play at Akron.

3—Kansas State is looking for its third straight victory against No. 19 Oklahoma in Norman. Since the Big 12 started in 1996, the Sooners have not lost three straight at home to the same conference opponent. Bonus: Kansas State's victory against Texas Tech last week was its 100th Big 12 win. Only Oklahoma and Texas have more.

19—Ohio State's consecutive road victories under coach Urban Meyer. The Buckeyes have never lost on an opponents' field during Meyer's four-plus seasons as head coach.

Off the radar: Morbid curiosity might be the best reason to watch Illinois (1-4) at Rutgers (2-4). The worst teams in the Big Ten and two strong contenders for worst Power Five conference team.

The Scarlet Knights have been shut out the past two weeks by No. 2 Ohio State and No. 4 Michigan 136-0, but they do have a victory against an FBS team (New Mexico). Almost beating Purdue is at the top of Illinois' résumé.

Coach in need of a win: Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly is not in any imminent danger of being fired. Not even close.

Kelly has caught a lot of grief as the Fighting Irish (2-4) have stumbled to their worst start since 2007. He has already fired a defensive coordinator and been criticized for not doing it sooner. And he has taken heat for laying public blame on players after losses.

The sky is always on the verge of falling over South Bend, Ind., and chunks are definitely coming down as Stanford (3-2) comes to town for a matchup of disappointing preseason top-10 teams. With No. 16 Miami, No. 25 Navy, No. 17 Virginia Tech and USC still left on the schedule, bowl eligibility is going to be a scramble for the Irish.

One victory won't make everything better at Notre Dame, but it could potentially provide some peace for Kelly heading into an off week.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Tennessee quarterback Joshua Dobbs is fourth in the nation in total yards at 333.7 per game and he has accounted for 19 touchdowns (14 passing, five rushing).



MORRIS GASH/AP

Wisconsin's T.J. Watt, left, sacks Akron quarterback Thomas Woodson during a game in Madison, Wis., last month. Watt has 5½ sacks in Wisconsin's five games.

Ground games key when Badgers, Buckeyes meet

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin linebacker T.J. Watt would like a unique birthday gift this year.

A win over Ohio State might be more cherished than any present.

The second-ranked Buckeyes will visit Camp Randall Stadium on Saturday night in a Big Ten showdown, when the No. 8 Badgers hope they can make Watt's weekend extra special.

"A Big Ten game in prime time. I know they're going to be juiced up," Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett said.

Just like on Oct. 16, 2010, when Wisconsin handed then-No. 1 Ohio State its first loss of the season, 31-18. It was Watt's birthday weekend, and he was sitting in the stands as a spectator watching older brother J.J. Watt get two sacks for the Badgers.

"A lot of people say it was the loudest they have ever heard the stadium," T.J. Watt said.

Watt is following in the pass-rushing footsteps of his older brother and Houston Texans star, though he hasn't needed much advice.

"Just kind of lets me do my own thing right now," the younger Watt said.

Whatever he's doing is working since Watt has 5½ sacks in Wisconsin's five games.

The Buckeyes (5-0, 2-0) will be the biggest test yet for the defensive-minded Badgers (4-1, 1-1).

Ohio State is ranked fifth in total offense (537.6 yards per game) and third in scoring of offense (53.2 points). The Buckeyes run for 226.6 yards per game, third-best in the country.



No. 2 Ohio State
at No. 8 Wisconsin
AFN-Sports2
2 a.m. Sunday CET

Wisconsin is allowing just 90.4 yards per game, the sixth-best run defense in the nation.

This could be an old-fashioned Big Ten brawl in the trenches.

"It'll come down to whether or not we can run the ball, protect, and if we can stop their run game," Ohio State offensive lineman Pat Elflein said. "Those are always fun games to play in."

Some notes and other things to watch on Saturday night:

Buckeyes pass: Ohio State hopes to get its passing game going again after it sputtered in last week's 38-17 win over Indiana. Barrett was just 9-for-21 for 93 yards, with one touchdown and an interception. Coach Urban Meyer cited communication, in part, as an issue. Barrett was focused this week on getting all 11 players on the offense in sync for every play.

Tuck and run: If he gets into trouble though, Barrett can tuck the ball away and run. He had 137 yards and a score on a career-high 26 carries, which might be too many for the team's best player. But Barrett is a unique run-pass threat who should cause fits for the Badgers.

Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst

likened Barrett's importance to the Buckeyes to that of a point guard on a basketball team. "Everything goes through him, and he's got poise," Chryst said.

On the linebackers: Wisconsin will be without top outside linebacker Vince Biegel again because of a foot injury. But replacement Garrett Dooley played well in his place, opposite Watt, in Wisconsin's 14-7 loss to Michigan two weeks ago. Inside linebackers Jack Clchy and T.J. Edwards are also playing well, and the defensive line has shown that it can control the line of scrimmage. The Badgers remain strong defensively even at less than full strength.

Clement time?: Senior running back Corey Clement is Wisconsin's best breakout threat, though he's waiting for his breakout game this year. Clement did have 111 yards on 21 carries against Akron before getting hurt. He's averaging 3.9 yards a carry, 2 yards less than his career average. To have a chance at an upset, the Badgers will need to play ball-control, as well as get big plays out of Clement and the running game to take pressure off freshman quarterback Alex Hornibrook.

Night out: Barrett thinks the Wisconsin tradition of playing the song "Jump Around" between the third and fourth quarters is "pretty cool." Watt until he sees it in person. A juiced-up student section leads the celebration, when fans in the creaky stadium sway to the hip-hop anthem. Ohio State is used to playing in hostile road environments, though Camp Randall at night should be a unique experience.

"It's going to be loud," Meyer said.

Scoreboard

Chargers hold off Broncos

Rivers passes Fouts as San Diego's career passing leader

36 for 236 yards, with a 5-yard scoring pass to Bennie Fowler.

SPORTS


Some charge left

 Hard-luck San Diego holds on to beat Broncos » **Page 31**
MLB: NLDS GAME 5

Kershaw closes

Dodgers' ace tallies two outs to finish off Nats

 By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

A little past midnight in Game 5 of the NL Division Series, Clayton Kershaw emerged from the bullpen to pitch in relief for the first time in seven years.

Two outs later, the only save of his major league career in the books, Kershaw's arms were raised and teammates were rushing to celebrate with a guy whose post-season performances have never carried the luster of his regular-season success.

Coming in after closer Kenley Jansen entered in the seventh inning and threw a career-high 51 pitches but issued a pair of one-out walks in the ninth, Kershaw got Daniel Murphy to pop out, then struck out Wilmer Difo to end it.

That finished the Los Angeles Dodgers' dramatic 4-3 victory over the Washington Nationals that decided their NLDS in the wee hours of Friday.

"The adrenaline rush was pretty good right there," said Kershaw, who approached Dodgers manager Dave Roberts in the seventh inning to offer to pitch if need be on the must-win occasion.

"At the at the end of the day, if we don't win that game, we're going home, anyway, so what does it matter?"

Kershaw said. "I just wanted to be available, and it ended up to the point where I could help out tonight."

SEE FINISH ON PAGE 27

Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws Thursday during the ninth inning of Game 5 of the National League Division Series against the Nationals in Washington. The Dodgers won 4-3.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

Champion Penguins open season with win over Capitals » Page 26